

Brazil rain

Farmers reap crops as drought eases

FORTALEZA, Brazil (BP)—Many farmers in northeastern Brazil are reaping their first substantial crop in years after soaking rains this spring indicated a possible end to the country's worst drought in more than a century.

The rains, which this year arrived four months later than the traditional start of the wet season, were expected to end in June, right on schedule for the traditional six months of dry weather.

At the height of the drought, the infant mortality rate climbed to 50 percent in some dry pockets and bands of starving rural families abandoned their homes to search for food in towns. The soil that once produced cotton, corn, and black beans became a seared expense, void even of rats and lizards, which had either died or been eaten.

Baptists sent the area about \$1.5 million in relief funds during the past three years for projects related to a five-year drought. One state is the site for a massive \$3.1 million Living Water Project designed to bring irrigation, health care, community centers and new churches.

Rain started falling in April,

spreading inland from the Atlantic coast. Now officials are calling the condition a "wet-drought." Though rivers are running full, reservoirs are still far below capacity.

The respite has given rural families a chance to grow crops. Farming is the only significant economic activity in much of the inland area.

Shirley Harner, a Southern Baptist missionary, said the corn season now is underway. "Prices have just started going down on corn," she noted. She and her husband, Fred, both from Illinois, live in the state of Ceara.

She said families are planting small gardens in beans, which is the basic food, and then corn, which also provides a lot of food for the family.

Harner said the drought is not completely broken, but the signs are good. "For the last year, we here in the city were without water for three days at a time until the last two months," she said. "But now they've stopped rationing the water, and we're getting it every day."

"They still say if we're not careful we might not have enough to carry us through the next year."

The Baptist Record

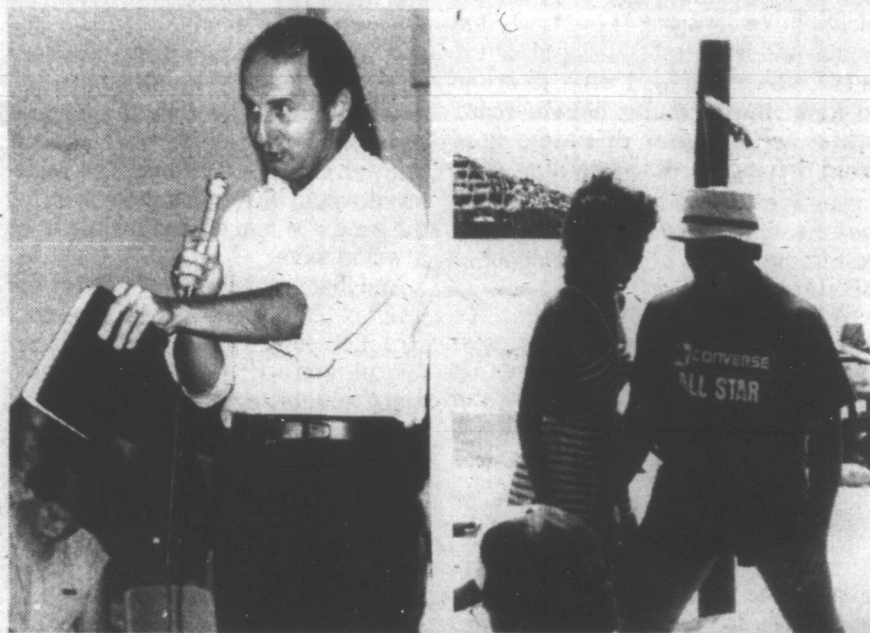
JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Youth weeks

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian bustles each summer with a series of youth conferences that challenge young people spiritually, and offer them a chance to get to know other Christians their age from across the state. The youth conferences, plus two special youth music sessions, and a youth disciple conference, total 11 weeks at Gulfshore for young people. Below, right, a group talks on a balcony with the Gulf in the background. Top, right, Bible study leader Don Berry of Jackson, tells the young people who make decisions for Christ, "Tell someone quickly—give witness to your decision; get into the Word of God daily; and share continually with a support group what the Lord is doing in your life." At Berry's right, two exuberant volleyball players discuss a play. They are Haley Howell and Larry Bamberg of Kilmichael Baptist Church. Below, middle, the youths hug one another and their counselors during a decision service. In the first eight conferences, there were a total of more than 425 decisions, including at least 40 professions of faith. And below, left, Faye Walters teaches a group the mission study for the week. Mrs. Walters was one of the mission study leaders, along with her husband Kenneth, pastor of First Church, Mt. Olive.



What's Inside?

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 2

Beer age needs to be 21

Liquor ad ban sustained

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 9

On America's North Coast

Pro-gambling legislation in Senate, Page 3

Baylor president reacts to Ziglar, Page 4

Cothen retirement clarification, Page 6



Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Beer age needs to be 21

We need to support with all our might the establishment of a minimum drinking age of 21 for all alcoholic beverages. It is 21 now for liquor and wine in Mississippi, but it is 18 for beer and light wine. In order to keep those young people from states with higher drinking ages from driving across state lines with lower ages, the federal Congress has passed bills aimed at encouraging a minimum age of 21 for all alcohol in all states.

We need that in Mississippi. We tried to get it during the last full legislative session, but it got derailed in a House Committee after passing the

Senate. Let's be in touch with our legislators before the next session and make our wishes known for a 21-year minimum. It will save lives, and that has become painfully obvious.

Such legislation would not eliminate all under-age drinking. We all know that. Neither do laws against murder eliminate killing. The legislation would be worth it, however, for the good it would do and for the lives it would save.

And that is not even considering the millions of dollars in highway construction funds that could be saved for the state if the federal government enacts legislation that would

whittle away that money if the states don't pass such bills. Some state legislators are complaining that the federal government is sticking its nose into state business, but that is not true. These laws, if they come about, would be designed to save the lives of citizens; and they are citizens of the United States just as much as they are citizens of Mississippi. And it is the federal government's money paid out in taxes by those same citizens.

Regardless of politics, we need that legislation. Death is a matter that outranks political expediency in importance.

Liquor ad ban sustained

The United States Supreme Court has refused to hear the appeal of the case involving Mississippi's ban against advertising liquor and wine. We should be grateful. That means that the ban continues to stand.

And well it should. Mississippi is, supposedly, a dry state. That is, it is legally dry. The reason there is so much drinking going on is that political divisions have been given the option of voting to come out from under the dry status. That is sort of local option in reverse. Generally, if a state is wet, a political division can vote to go dry. But, also generally, if a state is dry, that's it.

Nevertheless, Mississippi is legally a dry state; and there should not be advertising of an illegal substance in the state. We don't allow advertising of other drugs.

As was to be expected, those who hoped to make money from the tragedies of alcohol by advertising it were upset by the decision of the Supreme Court not to hear the appeal. They cry that since the liquor ads in

publications coming into the state cannot be stopped, they should be allowed to advertise the booze. But that is not rational thinking. It is true that there is no way of stopping from coming into the state every publication from outside the state that carries liquor ads. But that is no reason to give in to the idea that two wrongs make a right.

The nation is gradually waking up to the fact that liquor kills and maims and destroys. And the only purpose for advertising liquor is to encourage greater consumption of it. In its decision that the U.S. Supreme Court re-

fused to review, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court ruled that Mississippi's liquor ad ban is a legitimate effort to restrain liquor consumption. The court said, "We hold that sufficient reason exists to believe that advertising and consumption are linked to justify the ban. . . . We simply do not believe that the liquor industry spends a billion dollars a year on advertising solely to acquire an added market share at the expense of competitors. . . . Dollars go into advertising only if they produce sales. Money talks . . . and it talks here in support of Mississippi's concerns."

Guest opinion . . .

All news is not good news

By Chris Burrows

I wish to address a common complaint among many Baptists: "I'm tired of reading about the key issues we are facing." Another questions, "Why can't we read more good news? Why do we have to be told when something bad happens?"

The following concepts concern me a great deal. I have noticed these sentiments from Baptist Record readers, as well as in other state journals. I believe I am qualified to address these questions, because I have been involved in newspaper work for several years; including daily newspaper work. At the same time, I am pastor of a church in Itawamba County and can understand the consequences of a bad report.

I believe we must consider the words from Proverbs: "Reliable communication permits progress. If you refuse criticism you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept criticism you are on the road to fame. What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!" (Proverbs 13:17-18, 18:13, Living Bible).

One weakness our convention faces is our lack, or breakdown, in communication. One of the purposes of the Baptist Record is to help fill the gap between what is going on in the state convention and what is going on in your local church. This is an

awesome and highly responsible task.

We must remember newspapers do not make or create news; people do. The major responsibilities of the state paper are (1) be concise about the facts; (2) be objective, as possible, in writing 'hard news'; and (3) make it clear when opinions are being expressed while allowing space for counterpoint concerning debatable issues.

By nature, people do not like bad news or controversy. But, we are human. There will be failure. There will be mistakes. There will be diversity. There will be controversy on situations that are not black-and-white.

We do ourselves the greatest injustice if we choose to ignore a problem situation or a mistake. (I'm afraid this happens too often during the morning worship). The state newspaper has obligation to report all the facts, regardless of the situation or circumstances.

I'm ashamed when I find out about individual failure that has hurt the cause of Christ. I'm embarrassed when brothers resort to attacking each other instead of the problems we face together. I'm hurt when we (individually or collectively) do something to violate God's word or will.

I can't stick my head in the sand and pretend problems do not exist. The Bible teaches, "If you profit from constructive criticism you will be elected to the wise men's hall of fame. But to reject criticism is to harm yourself and your own best interests." (Proverbs 15:31-32, Living Bible)

When I search God's word, I often find myself coming short of the mark. I have two options: ignore the words of God and go my own way; or repent of my sin, then make a conscious effort to avoid the same error.

If we were to ignore tough situations, as some have suggested, then Baptists will cease to be active agents in this world. Meanwhile, the world will perish because of a lack of quality on our part. I'm not condoning argument for argument's sake. I'm all for harmony. I'm all for a fair and equal treatment when we face the problems and issues, then going to God with them for the answers in our lives as the issues affect us.

As far as I'm concerned, the criticism leveled at the Baptist Record or any other state paper is unjust. The Baptist Record is 'upbeat' when compared to other state papers. If anything, our paper is guilty of being too soft on major issues; but I see vast improvement in this area within the past few years. I'm encouraged

by that development.

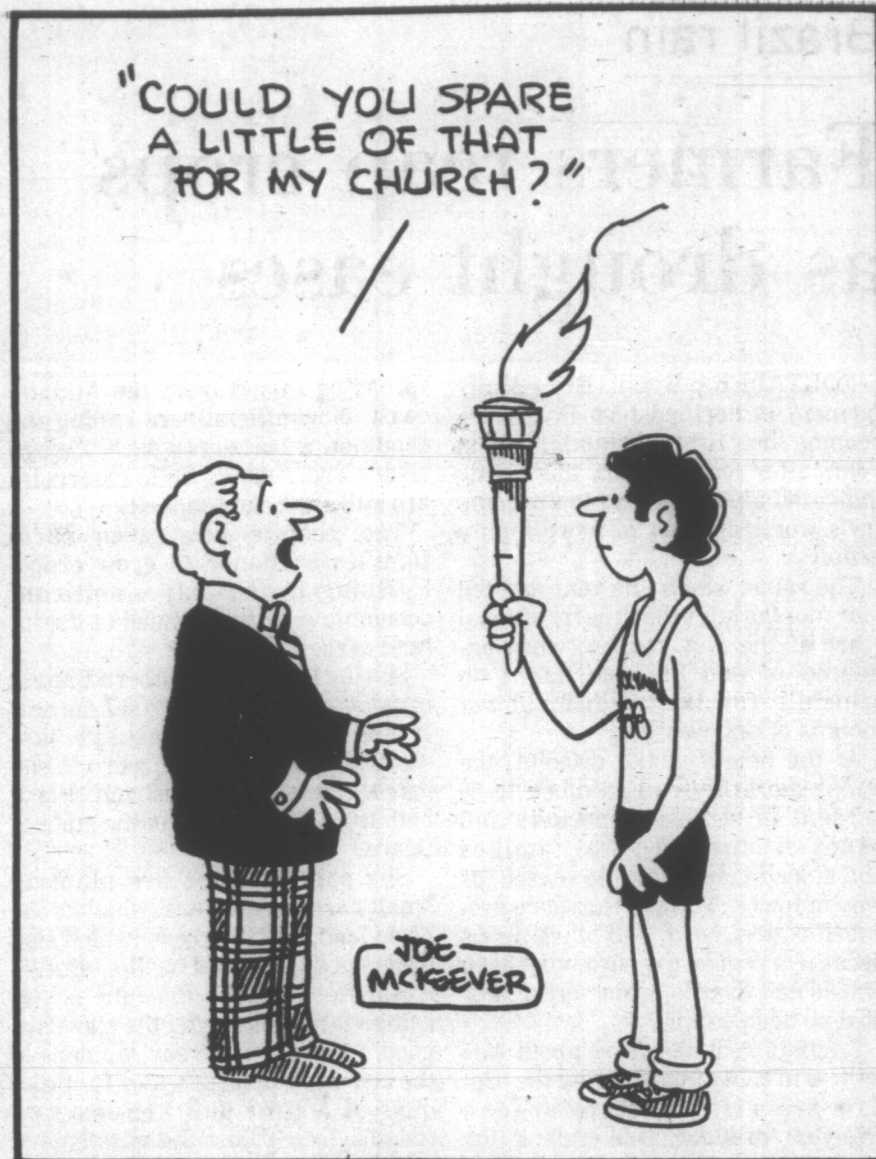
So, next time you catch yourself asking, "Why do I have to keep reading about these tough situations all the time?" then thank God you are in a position to know the situation and facts in the first place. Then, above all else, seek his face and see what he would have you do about the matter.

Then, if you have a little time left over, drop a letter to your state newspaper and thank them for helping bridge the communication gap. It will do these hard-working people a world of good if you let them know you are concerned enough to see what they are trying to say.

Chris Burrows is pastor of Dorsey Church in Itawamba Association and is a contributing writer-photographer for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

Assemblies' growth

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (EP)—The Assemblies of God continued its rapid growth rate in 1983, increasing its worldwide constituency to more than 12.5 million and adding nearly 1,500 new churches and outstations around the world, according to statistics reported by the fellowship.



A federal district judge, now retired, struck down the Mississippi alcohol advertising ban as violating the First Amendment. We can be grateful to then attorney general (now governor) Bill Allain for appealing the decision to the 5th Circuit Court

and to the present attorney general, Ed Pittman, for continuing to defend the Mississippi ban on liquor advertising against the subsequent appeal by advertising interests. The Supreme Court's decision was good news indeed.

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Interstate advertising

Pro-gambling legislation sails through committee

WASHINGTON (BP)—On the same day the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., passed a resolution in opposition to gambling, legislation which would lift federal restrictions on gambling advertising cleared committee hurdles in the United States Congress.

The Senate Judiciary Committee June 14 reported out a bill introduced by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), a former casino owner and presently general chairman of the Republican National committee. The legislation, S. 1876, would modify sections of an existing law in order to allow interstate advertising of gambling sponsored by a state.

If the changes are approved, casinos and state lotteries could advertise even in states where such gambling activities are illegal.

Hearings on companion legislation, H.R. 5097, were held in the House on the same day. The House version was introduced by Rep. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), a former member of the Nevada Gaming Control Commission.

Congressional sources familiar with both pieces of legislation expressed surprise at the lack of opposition from Congress and the Reagan administration.

Laxalt's bill was reported out without dissent, even though the Judiciary Committee membership includes conservative senators such as Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.); Robert Dole (R-Kan.); John East (R-N.C.); Jeremiah A. Denton (R-Ala.); and Howell T. Heflin (D-Ala.).

In the House, John C. Keeney, deputy attorney general of the criminal division of the department of justice, told a subcommittee hearing that the justice department "does not oppose enactment" of the legislation.

In a repeat of earlier hearings chaired by Laxalt, one House subcommittee heard a lineup of gambling industry representatives talk about the need for freedom to advertise their product.

Almost lost in the hearings was a brief claim that the changes in federal law were needed in order to clarify "constitutional problems."

Laxalt and other supporters argue the legislation would bring the law into compliance with a 1975 Supreme Court decision which, according to their interpretation, placed restrictions on the capacity of federal law to limit commercial free speech.

But Larry Braidfoot, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and an expert on gambling issues, countered that such an argument "appears spurious."

"The gambling industry, with its billions of dollars in income, would

have challenged the current restrictions long ago if the legal problem had been real," he explained.

Braidfoot added although "powerful and influential interests sympathetic to the gambling industry" have characterized the legislation as non-controversial, "our job as Southern Baptists is to make this bill very controversial."

"If this legislation passes, with no restrictions or limits on advertising, we will be subjected to a barrage of pro-gambling advertising which will

glorify every conceivable form of gambling," he predicted. "With the current approach of the Federal Communications Commission and its commitment to deregulation of the media, there will be no limit to what may be done by the gambling industry to hawk its wares."

He urged Baptists and other Christians to communicate their concerns with elected representatives. The legislation, he emphasized, "is on a fast track and will be passed if we do not act quickly to derail it."

Congress sets 21 as lowest drinking age

WASHINGTON (BP) — Both houses of Congress have given swift and decisive approval to a new drunken driving law that sets a national minimum drinking age of 21.

The new law, expected to be signed soon by President Reagan, also establishes a set of rewards and penalties for the states, based on their willingness or refusal to go along with the new federal statute.

Passed 81-16 by the Senate June 26 and by unanimous consent the next day in the House of Representatives, the Uniform Minimum Drinking Age Act also calls for uniform, nation-

wide criminal penalties for all persons convicted of drunken driving. Also covered are those who drive while under the influence of any controlled substance.

States enacting laws of their own setting the minimum drinking age of 21 will be rewarded with a special one-time five-percent bonus in federal highway funds, while states refusing to go along before Sept. 30, 1987, would lose up to 10 percent of the funds.

Mississippi currently allows liquor sales at age 21; beer and wine at age 18.



Cheng reads from braille notes

Lucy Cheng of Hong Kong reads her Christian testimony from braille notes as Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks completes his introduction of her to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City. Miss Cheng learned braille in Mainland China as a child through the Mo Quong School, which Blue Mountain College helped fund from 1904 till it closed when Communists took over the country in 1951. The Mo Quong project still funds a mobile eye clinic operating out of Hong Kong Baptist Hospital, has helped educate a number of seeing girls at Blue Mountain College, and purchased a machine for translating into Chinese braille. Mrs. J. E. Buchanan of Blue Mountain is treasurer of the American Mo Quong Board.

At board's request

WMU cuts missions goals

By Carol Sisson Garrett

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — The Woman's Missionary Union executive board recently took action on a wide range of business, the most disturbing of which will directly affect future Southern Baptist mission efforts.

Meeting in executive session prior to the WMU annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., the board voted to lower the 1985-86 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, and the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at the request of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, respective recipients of the offerings.

The Easter offering goal was lowered from \$32 to \$30 million and the 1986 goal from \$34 to \$33 million. The Christmas offering goal was lowered from \$72 million to \$70 million.

"My heart rebels against it but my mind says we have to do it," said North Carolina WMU Executive Di-

rector Nancy Curtis. Her reluctant acceptance of lowering the offering goals was an attitude voiced by many WMU leaders, including WMU SBC Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford.

"I feel very sad about the lowering of the offerings because of the fact every penny we put into the goal is money that is actually needed to do a specific thing on the mission field. Lowering the goal means some of the plans that have been made, some of the work that was going to be done, can't be done," Weatherford said.

Weatherford also voiced concern the goals have not been met for the last two years.

Alabama WMU President Carolyn Miller stressed a need for missions awareness in the local church. "Because the local churches are not pushing mission study and prayer support, we are going to have a de-

cline in the offering, I believe, until our local churches again put this as priority on their church calendar," Miller said.

WMU SBC Recording Secretary Betty Gilreath called the current giving trend most distressing "in the face of the fact Cooperative Program funds are down. It can't do anything but harm the missions work at home and around the world."

Woman's Missionary Union will seek to offset the lack in missions giving by "doing a better job of missions education so that people will know what the money is going to be used for, how much money is needed," Weatherford said, "and thereby be challenged to give more."

In other action the board adopted an \$8,642,450 budget, a 15 percent increase over last year's budget. Most of the increase was due to relocation interest payment and to the inclusion

computer hardware.

Also included in the budget was minimal assistance to several groups whose purpose in membership are complementary to Woman's Missionary Union. The Conference of Ministers' Wives, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, and Women in Ministry are among groups which will receive support from WMU.

Speaking directly to doubts voiced by some Southern Baptists about the purpose of Women in Ministry, Weatherford said, "Women in Ministry is not an organization for ordained women. It is for women employed in church-related vocations. That includes almost 200 women in WMU work, church secretaries, chaplains, and church staff."

"Woman's Missionary Union is

(Continued on page 4)

Baylor president refutes Ziglar attack on school

By Craig Bird

WACO, Texas (BP)—Zig Ziglar's election as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention doesn't make him knowledgeable about Baylor University, according to Herbert Reynolds, president of the Baptist school.

The June 17 issue of the Dallas Times Herald carried an interview with Ziglar in which the motivational speaker criticized two Baylor professors: a Mormon teaching in the Spanish-Portuguese department and a religion professor who, he said, believes evolution played a part in the creation of the world.

Reynolds, in a formal statement released by the Baylor public relations office, answered the charges while discounting Ziglar's qualifications as critic.

Ziglar has "never been on the Baylor campus to my knowledge," Reynolds said, but is part of a "priestly and self-anointed group" which "is smart enough to know that if they can control the educational system of Baptists and our publishing houses, they can be effective in producing the kind of clones which will make willing followers of demagogues who seek to change the essential characteristics of the Southern Baptist denomination."

Ziglar, who says he believes the Bible, "from Genesis to maps" has not been a voting messenger to a national, state or association Southern Baptist convention prior to this year, according to the Times Herald, but said he decided to become involved recently after learning about the Baylor professors.

He said he was asked to run for vice-president of the SBC four to five months ago by a member of the inerrancy group within the convention led by Paige Patterson of Dallas and Paul Pressler of Houston. Not long afterwards, he said, he was told, "I was the first choice of Dr. Stanley" as a running mate.

Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, was elected president of the SBC on the first ballot. Patterson is president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies and a member at First Church, Dallas, where Ziglar is an active lay member.

Ziglar urged that Phillip Johnson, a Mormon who has taught at Baylor since 1977, be removed from teaching duties. "I think since they've made the colossal mistake of putting him on tenure, he needs to be put in a caretaker position or in the registration office, away from students," Ziglar said in the interview.

Reynolds defended both Johnson and the unnamed religion professor, saying Ziglar "is a political candidate in terms of our convention" whose concern is "to identify issues to attempt to discredit not only Baylor but our Baptist-related agencies."

A Baylor policy against hiring Mormons went into effect in 1982 after the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board deemed Mormonism a "cult," Reynolds said.

"We are not going to treat this individual to be the totality of Mormonism," he continued. "He has never in any way tried to share his belief with anyone and he possesses a letter of instruction from me that any such action would result in action being taken against him."

"The best witness we can be is to treat him in a Christian fashion. He doesn't have a thing to do with religion. No Southern Baptists applied for the position."

Reynolds also said Johnson, a Phi Beta Kappa scholar, is very much respected by his students and faculty colleagues.

"If Baylor, as a 140-year-old institution with 60,000 alumni, 10,000 students, 1,500 faculty and staff and the undergirding of three million Texas Southern Baptists is not strong enough to prevail in the face of one single individual whose activities have been circumscribed, we are not as strong as I fully believe us to be," he added.

The religion professor, "who has spoken of evolution in relation to God's revelation of his creation, has been a deeply committed Christian since he was a boy," Reynolds said. "He has never stated or alluded to the fact that there is any creation apart from God and makes it very clear he

is committed to 'the Bible as God's Holy Scripture given to us by revelation and inspired by the Holy Spirit.'"

He and all members of the Baylor religion department voluntarily signed the Baptist Faith and Message in October 1979, Reynolds said.

Ziglar told the Times Herald he is convinced he has an important role to play in the 14-million member SBC. "Mostly I see myself as the individual who will reach the lay people," he said. "I think God has put me in this position for this purpose."

Reynolds said, "I don't think he (Ziglar) is going to have an impact on Baylor. He's a Johnny-come-lately on the Baptist scene," but if the "group" of which he is a part is successful, Reynolds warned, "our (Baptists') historical commitment to the priesthood of the believer would be replaced by the belief that we need a priestly group of inerrant interpreters because the rest of us are not considered sufficiently capable of reading the Word of God for ourselves and responsible for our own souls on that day of judgment when each of us must stand alone before him."

(Craig Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.)

WMU missions goals

(Continued from page 3)

about missions and does not have a stand on the ordination of women, but we are made up of and do support women who have a career in ministry," she said.

Estate provides VBS materials

Through a special fund established by the Homer L. and Ethel H. Grice estate, Southern Baptist churches may request and receive free a set of mission Vacation Bible School curriculum leadership materials for use in "conducting mission Vacation Bible Schools in a spiritual ministry to underprivileged children."

To receive the free materials, a church should write to: Willie R. Beaty, MSN 177, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, requesting the Grice Memorial Mission VBS Offer. Churches receiving materials will be asked to: (1) use them to reach underprivileged children, (2) give the location and date of the mission VBS, and (3) send a special report of the school to the above address.

The board also voted that the final cost of relocation would be limited to \$8.75 million, a figure lower than the projected \$10.5 million.

A recommendation from the relocation committee was accepted that payment for relocation be fully retired by the end of 1988, WMU's Centennial Year.

Permission was granted by the WMU executive board for Meadowbrook Baptist Mission to meet in the new WMU headquarters building. The church now meets in a rented office building and will begin services at WMU in August.

"This is not WMU telling people how to do missions. It is doing missions itself," said Dotson Nelson, interim pastor of the mission.

The approximately 40-member mission is currently paying \$1,600 per month for meeting space. The mission will be responsible for minimal direct maintenance costs at the new site.

Six new positions were approved by the executive board. The positions have been projected with last year's staff reorganization but were funded with this vote.

The 29-member executive board is made up of the presidents of state WMU organizations (these state conventions qualify for representation on the boards and agencies), national WMU president, recording secretary, and executive director.

(Carol Sisson Garrett writes for Woman's Missionary Union)

Suit refiled in Virginia asking \$5 million damages

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer has refiled a \$5 million damage suit against the board in Virginia after the suit was dismissed in Texas for lack of jurisdiction.

Nasser Lotfi of Austin, Texas, filed the suit March 26 in the U.S. District Court for the eastern district of Virginia, but papers were not served until June 7. The court is located in Richmond.

The suit, which also seeks \$60,000 in disability and medical benefits, claims Turkish immigrants in Augsburg, West Germany, beat Lotfi into unconsciousness March 27, 1982, while he was working to develop a local congregation of Baptist believers. It alleges he suffered permanent disabling injuries to his back and spine.

Lotfi originally filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Fort Worth, Texas, early in 1983 against the Southern Baptist Convention, but an amended complaint named the Foreign Mis-

sion Board as defendant. The case was dismissed Sept. 21. A motion for rehearing was later denied.

Lotfi, identified by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as a former colonel in the Iranian air force and a naturalized U.S. citizen, went with his wife to West Germany in January 1982 for a two-year volunteer term. They were assigned to minister to Turkish immigrants in the Augsburg area, working alongside Southern Baptist career missionaries and in cooperation with the German Baptist Union.

Mission board officials said Lotfi who was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Austin, was selected because of his apparent Christian commitment, his Middle East background, his language skills, and his intense desire to go. Officials said consultations were held in July 1982 and a decision was made to end the agreement under which the Lotfis went overseas.

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Carolina missions department audit turns up \$35,000 misuse

By Larry Crisman

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)—An audit which followed the resignation of former South Carolina Baptist Convention missions department director N. Larry Bryson in March disclosed financial discrepancies in excess of \$35,000 in the missions department budget, according to Ray P. Rust, executive secretary-treasurer of the state convention.

Rust said the audit indicates financial discrepancies occurred in the department budget dating back to 1981.

The audit was conducted by the Columbia, S.C.-based accounting firm of Clarkson, Harden and Gantt.

In a memorandum to Rust and the executive committee, the firm said problem disbursements related to the missions department budget involved the years of 1981, 1982, 1983 and January and February of 1984.

The memorandum also said: "The problem encountered with disbursements from the missions department were discovered by the General Board's own internal control procedures, prior to the time that we were called in to make this special investigation. It appears that your internal control procedure did in fact function and discover the fact that improper disbursements were being made. We also understand and have reviewed the changes in your procedures that have been made. We also understand and have reviewed the changes in your procedures that have been made to assure that similar types of unauthorized disbursements do not take place.

"In our review it appears that the only person involved was Mr. Larry Bryson, and we found no indication that any other employee or outsider was in collusion with him."

Rust said full restitution of the funds in question, as well as payment of the cost of the audit amounting to \$7,680, already has been made by Bryson.

"We are extremely distressed that the audit has shown that these additional questionable activities and transactions took place," said Rust. "But I want to assure our churches and their members in the South Carolina Baptist Convention that these losses are fully insured and that no actual loss would have been incurred by any church, churches or other entities of the South Carolina Baptist Convention even if restitution had not been made."

In explaining how what he described as the "problematic transactions" took place, Rust said, "A position of trust was used to requisition funds for non-existent meetings in the name of people who rendered no service or who otherwise were reimbursed. Then personal use of these funds was made."

Bryson, a member of the denomination's Baptist Building staff in Columbia for about 10 years, submitted his resignation to Rust in a letter dated March 21. The resignation became effective immediately.

The resignation then was reported to the state convention's executive committee on March 27. At that time, Rust explained Bryson's resignation related to financial matters. With the authorization of the executive committee, Rust issued this statement:

"The Executive Committee confirmed the action of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer in accepting Rev. Bryson's letter of resignation, which said he was resigning because of 'misappropriation of funds for which I was responsible.'"

In the course of submitting his resignation, Bryson made restitution of the more than \$1,400 known to have been misappropriated at that time.

After Bryson's resignation, however, Rust asked the outside firm of certified public accountants to per-

form an audit of missions department budget activities.

"All of this is extremely unfortunate, and we are deeply hurt that it happened," said Rust. "However, South Carolina Baptists can take assurance in the fact that their General Board staff as a system of accounting checks and balances that works. It was because of our routine checks that problems were detected. This, of course, led to the special audit of the missions department budget."

Rust said steps already have been taken to strengthen internal financial controls.

No charges were known to have been filed.

(Larry Crisman directs public relations for South Carolina Baptists.)

Evangelists worry about simultaneous revivals

KANSAS CITY—Southern Baptist evangelists expressed concern that simultaneous crusades planned conventionwide in April 1986 will hurt their ministries.

Despite their concern, they did agree to support the crusades.

Meeting for their annual business session, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists agreed to work more closely with the Home Mission Board to plan future conventionwide crusade efforts that are more evenly spread throughout the year.

Clyde Chiles, an evangelist based in St. Louis, Mo., said the 1986 emphasis on simultaneous crusades is a "great idea, but also a great problem for our denomination to have them all at one time." Such a concentrated revival emphasis will hurt the evangelists' schedules the remainder of the year, he said.

He suggested the SBC in future years plan simultaneous crusades "every month for 12 months" so that the evangelists could schedule revivals every month, rather than only one month a year.

Tom Cox, a music and preaching evangelist from Mountainburg, Ark., objected to April as the designated month for simultaneous crusades in 1986. In some states, the potential is good for snow, and other weather-related problems that could hinder the success of revival crusades, particularly those held outdoors, he said.

"It just doesn't make sense weatherwise."

Delton Dees, an evangelist from St. Louis, advocated more one-day crusades patterned after those often led by evangelist Freddie Gage. "There is no reason most evangelists cannot do this," he said.

He urged the evangelists to begin a

dialogue with the mission board staff to "let them know we're willing to do this. The finances can be just as good in one day as the evangelists can make in one week."

Since the denomination already has committed to the 1986 crusade emphasis, "we're beating a dead horse now because it's going to happen" said Rick Scarborough, president of the conference.

The evangelists will continue to work with mission board personnel, particularly Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the HMB, in planning future simultaneous crusades, he said.

Harris polled the evangelists to determine the best time for lay evangelism schools and revival training seminars, which would be sponsored by the mission board specifically for Southern Baptist evangelists. Conference attendees agreed that the best time would be a three- to four-day session either before or after the 1985 SBC in Dallas.

During a brief devotional time, evangelist Sam Cathey of Hot Springs, Ark., urged the evangelists to seek the glory of God, not the power of God.

"Most of us played king of the mountain when we were children, and that is still the concept that many people have of God," he said. "But God doesn't get his glory from his power—he gets his power from his glory. When you have the presence of God, you have the power of God."

No one can disgrace us but ourselves.—J. G. Holland

Creeds grow so thick along the way their boughs hide God.—Lizete Woodworth Reese

Anti-Christian bias told

TUPELO, Miss. (EP)—Procter & Gamble is the leading sponsor of anti-Christian programs on television according to a report by the National Federation for Decency.

The report, covering prime-time television from January 6-May 14, also listed Esmark (Playtex, Hunt-Wesson foods, Swift meat products), General Motors Corporation, Sterling Drug (Bayer, Lysol), Lever Brothers, Chesebrough-Ponds (Aviance perfume, Vaseline), Cosmair (L'Oreal hair care products), Ford Motor Company and McDonald's as top sponsors of anti-Christian programs.

Procter & Gamble was the leading anti-Christian sponsor in a similar report published by the NFD for the Spring of 1983. Lever, Cosmair and Sterling Drug were also cited in that report. The NFD said the report is based on programs which belittled Christians or Christianity.

SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCES

AUGUST 20-22

OR

AUGUST 23-25

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

—Pass Christian, MS



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Musician Cecil Harper, Jackson
Pianist Irene Martin, Harpersville
Organist Dot Pray, Jackson
Fellowship Leader John Renfro, Jackson

Conferences

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2. How to Relate to my Family - Dr. J. Clark Hensley, Jackson
3. How to Have Good Senior Adult Church Training - Cortez Hutchinson, Yazoo City
4. How to Live on Your Money - Mrs. Janet Kelly, Biloxi

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Response to criticism

Grady Cothen retirement fund clarification issued

By Dan Martin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A statement clarifying retirement benefits for Baptist Sunday School Board President Emeritus Grady C. Cothen has been issued by BSSB President Lloyd Elder.

Elder issued the statement in a meeting with Russell Kaemmerling and Robert M. Tenery in response to two articles published in the June 1984 issue of the *Southern Baptist Advocate*.

Kaemmerling is editor and chief executive officer of the privately owned *Advocate*, a Dallas-based publication. Tenery, a trustee of the BSSB, is pastor of Burkemont Church, Morganton, N.C., and editor of *Baptists United News*, also a private advocacy publication.

The June issue of the *Advocate* contained one article concerning retirement benefits for Cothen, who took early retirement as president of the BSSB in February because of health reasons. Another article concerned the June 12-14 annual meeting of the SBC, and prominently mentioned Cothen in reference to the convention presidency.

Asked for meeting

Elder asked for the meeting with Kaemmerling and Tenery after Cothen was defeated in a bid to become president of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination. Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, won a first-ballot victory over both Cothen and John Sullivan, outgoing first vice-president of the SBC.

Elder said he prepared his response in readiness for questions which might arise during the report period for the BSSB, but did not deliver them then since no questions concerning Cothen's retirement benefits were raised. He said he waited until after the election to issue the statement to Kaemmerling and Tenery.

Also attending the meeting with Elder, Kaemmerling and Tenery were Richard T. McCartney, editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; D. August Boto, a Dallas attorney and friend of Kaemmerling (and a member of First Church, Dallas); and Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Elder said certain parts of Kaemmerling's article were accurate, but took issue with other sections he said were inaccurate.

Kaemmerling concurred after inviting Elder to write an article for the *Advocate*.

The BSSB president told Kaemmerling he regrets the article was ever published "because it is one of those cases where the facts distort the truth rather than reveal the truth."

Elder agreed the first story was a news article and the figures quoted were correct but said both articles

"contain some factual information, some inaccuracies, and editorial distortion which make accurate communication less than available to Southern Baptists."

"The problem I have is you have said the only reason for doing it (printing details of Cothen's retirement package) had nothing whatsoever to do with anything except the information. You have said there is no ulterior motive. But in the second article (concerning issues to come before the SBC) you tie in directly with the election of an SBC president," Elder said.

Kaemmerling conceded he had obtained the information concerning Cothen's benefit package from "a private letter . . . to an individual."

Elder said Kaemmerling "did not call me or Jim Clark (James W. Clark, executive vice president of the BSSB) and ask any clarification of any of this . . . The only one who had a letter of personal correspondence (on the retirement issue) was one of our trustees. He has a right to that information."

Elder said he verified the information with Tenery, and said the letter "was passed along to the *Advocate* from the trustee who himself is the editor of a privately owned non-Southern Baptist journal."

Elder said the *Advocate* was accurate when it reported Cothen received an automobile valued at \$15,883; a satellite receiving system valued at \$2,730; a matching gift for Mrs. Cothen (equivalent to the satellite receiving dish); expenses for trips to the Baptist World Alliance meetings in 1984 and 1985; all-expense paid trips to the SBC as long as he lives, and monthly retirement income of \$4,901 per month or \$58,812 annually.

The information is "exactly accurate," about the cost of the gifts.

Allusion

Elder reacted to "allusion" the retirement benefits had "just" been released. He said the retirement plans were approved by BSSB trustees 10 months ago in the August 1983 meeting.

"The *Advocate* was accurate in reporting Dr. Cothen's retirement . . . at \$4,901 per month. What it unfortunately fails to report is that the trustees affirmed this by policy decision almost 10 years ago when Dr. Cothen came as president. This is a matter of trustee record. It is also the exact policy in which Dr. (James) Sullivan retired. This policy does not represent a recent decision hidden from Baptists or that involves special arrangement . . . for (Cothen)."

Elder took issue with the *Advocate* article on SBC issues.

The *Advocate* story said, in its pertinent parts: "Cothen, who would not be burdened with the added expenses of a president since he retired with an extremely comfortable salary from

the Sunday School Board, is seen as the candidate of the extreme left . . ."

"Many concerned Baptists are questioning the ethics involved in requesting and obtaining early retirement from the Sunday School Board, citing an inability to continue due to poor health. Sixty days later, with a retirement package in hand that guarantees an annual income which exceeds that of 95 percent of all denominational employees, Cothen emerges as a candidate for the convention presidency."

Increased costs?

The article goes on to say: "Rumors have circulated for weeks in and around Nashville about Cothen's 'miraculous recovery.' Many have suggested that the only proper thing to do is either return the money or go back to work. If poor health prevented him working, can he survive the presidency with its demands, or if he is healthy why not earn the salary which Southern Baptists will pay him through increased literature costs?"

Elder said the "assumption" concerning the source of the retirement benefits is inaccurate. He said Cothen and "our other 750 annuitants are paid primarily by earnings of wisely invested funds already on deposit and designated for that purpose."

Elder told Kaemmerling the *Advocate* "may have the right to call into question the ethics surrounding this decision," but "the elected trustees of the board and a host of other Baptists have applauded Dr. Cothen as a man of unimpeachable integrity. Many have experienced with him the agony of being forced by radical surgery and its aftermath to lay down prematurely his service as our president."

He added the *Advocate* "was inaccurate" in its reference to the timing of Cothen's retirement. "The decision to retire was not made 60 days ago, but two years ago. It was forced on him by radical surgery when over half of his stomach was removed." In the ensuing two years, Elder said, Cothen has been hospitalized six times, four of them for additional surgery.

Elder said he had not heard remarks about the "miraculous recovery" of Cothen, and said he instead has "heard Southern Baptists thank God for his provident grace in a two year agonizing progressive recovery. This is what knowledgeable physicians predicted (would occur) if Dr. Cothen would retire."

"We want to trust the Lord and tell the people the truth. We will give you all the correct information you request. We believe Southern Baptists are a fair minded people and will not allow partial facts to separate them from a great board," he added.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

Harper will lead music at Senior Adult meeting

Cecil Harper, minister of music at Castlewoods Church, Brandon, and a concert artist of Jackson, will be the music director for Senior Adult Conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly the week of Aug. 20-25.

Two conferences will be held during this week. One will begin on Monday evening and conclude at noon on Wednesday. A second will begin on

Thursday evening and conclude at noon on Saturday.

Bill Nimmons, pastor of First Church, Dalton, Ga., will be the preacher for these senior adult conferences. Nimmons previously served as pastor in Mississippi.

Reservations for the conferences may be made with Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571.

A noble deed is a step toward God. Lifting the soul from the common clod. —J. G. Holland



Harper

Wednesday. A second will begin on



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To counter such alternatives, Powell suggested that the college ministers polish their listening skills and

HMB elects three staff; optimistic over funds

In other actions, board of directors

Two Mississippians were among officers elected including John Tadlock, president, and Wil McCall, vice president of programs. Tadlock, a native of Simpson County and a graduate of Mississippi College, was once BSU director at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College. McCall is BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi. Tadlock is campus minister at Clemson.

The world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly, kind companion. — William Makepeace Thackeray

Retired Church Training director to lead studies

King The program is designed for associational and age-group Church Training leadership and special education leadership, and parents and all members of Church Training programs. There will be a special education class, also.



King



Stagg

Jones

Ray Jones, minister of music, First Church, Kenner, La., will be music


A reservation fee of \$25 must accompany each person's reservation application, age two and older. Write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Baptist gifts to ABS rate high

Convention churches contributed \$324,377 during 1983, the largest denominational contribution total. Gifts for last year, however, fell \$235 from 1982 SBC total of \$324,612. Only three other denominations contributed more than \$100,000 each.


This world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel.—Horace Walpole.

It takes all sorts of people to make a world.—Douglas Jerrold.



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Insight	This Is The Life	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
Journeys In Christian Growth	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
Bobby Jones	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	
Prime Timers	Prime Timers	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Human Dimension	Human Dimension	Sunshine Factory
Athletes	Praise Song	Insight	At Home W/Bible	Down Home USA	This Is The Life		
Great Churches	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	
At Home W/Bible	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
Praise Song	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel
Profiles							
Our World	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
Invitation To Life	Country Crossroads	Our World	Glorieta Quiz	Athletes	In Concert		Imagine That
	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	
In Concert	Success	Success	Success	Success	Success	Success	Laff Movie
Great Churches	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Prime Timers
	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Gigglesmort Hotel	Super Handyman
At Home W/Bible	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Plant Groom
Changed Lives	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Glorieta Quiz	Prime Timers	David Wade	
This Is The Life							Shari Lewis
Insight	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Bill Cosby
Human Dimension	Our World						Country Crossroads
Listen	Athletes	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation To Life	Our World		
Journeys In Christian Growth	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	La Vida Hoy
One In The Spirit							
Bobby Jones	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	In Concert
Praise Song							
Our World	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Our World
Down Home USA							Insight
Country Crossroads	In Concert	Athletes	Great Churches	Our World	Country Crossroads		This Is The Life
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15 buses filled for Acteens Convention

BIRMINGHAM — Capacity crowds will fill the Tarrant County Convention Center when the National Acteens Convention meets in Fort Worth, Tex. July 18-21.

Approximately 13,900 girls and their leaders were registered to attend the Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored event when registration closed July 1. No further registration will be accepted.

Of the registrants, 1,118 are from Mississippi, third highest among the states, (Texas is first and South Carolina second.) This includes 275 adult leaders and 831 Acteens, representing 76 Mississippi churches.

Six hundred of the Mississippi Acteens will travel in fifteen buses sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union through Bryan Tours. The state goal was ten buses.

Program personnel will include

thirty missionaries and musicians Cynthia Clawson, Andrew Culverwell, and Cathy Irby Diaz (Mississippian). One of the teachers will be Jan Cossitt of Clinton.

The originating points of the 15 buses are Lucedale; Temple, Hattiesburg (two buses); Meridian; Starkville; Harrisburg, Tupelo (four buses); Calvary, Greenwood; Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Brookhaven; and First, McComb (three buses).

D. P. Smith is Acteens consultant, Mississippi WMU.

Acteens from Bermuda, Canada, Panama, Puerto Rico, and more than 35 states will focus on Southern Baptist missions work during what is believed to be one of the nation's largest gatherings of teenage girls.

Acteens is a mission education organization for girls in grades 7-12.

Book Reviews

VOICES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT, by James E. Hightower, Jr.; Broadman Press, 1983; 126 pages; paperback, \$3.95.

James Hightower, the editor of *Proclaim* magazine, believes that the Old Testament is a compilation of stories that were handed down generation to generation by the people of God and finally were recorded under divine inspiration. The Old Testament revelation is filled with drama and illustrates divine principles for life through real flesh-and-blood character.

The most effective preaching, then, will be that preaching which takes on the form of story-telling. The sermons in this volume are examples of how one may tell again the Old Testament story so that it grips the imagination of the listeners and leaves them with principles and directives for their lives. The kind of preaching that Hightower suggests is hard work. It requires the most thorough of preparation and generally a full manuscript on every sermon.

In addition to the traditional sermon type, Hightower has given us examples of the monologue sermon, Bible-book preaching, lectionary preaching, third-person monologue preaching, dialogue sermons, and the biographical sermon. Chapter One, entitled "So You Want to Preach About Old Testament Personalities," is a very practical and helpful how-to on the philosophy and mechanics of this type of preaching.

Most preachers enjoy hearing other preachers tell how they do it. For this reason alone every preacher will enjoy reading this volume. Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

THE TEACHING OF JESUS, by Norman Anderson; Inter-Varsity Press, 1983; 219 pages; paperback, \$6.95.

This is the second book in *The Jesus Library* series edited by Michael Green. The first book, entitled *The Hard Sayings of Jesus*, by F. F.

Bruce was excellent. This work does not quite match the quality of Bruce's work. Nevertheless, it is well worth reading, especially for laymen or as a beginning point for the study of the life of Jesus.

There are three sections to the book. Part I, entitled "The Summons to the Kingdom," discusses Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom and his teachings on eternal life and salvation. Jesus' proclamation was that the kingdom of God had broken into human history in his own ministry. Anderson carefully studies the teachings of Jesus on the kingdom—in particular, the kingdom parables. His study of Jesus' teaching on eternal life and salvation leads him to the conclusion that these are eschatological concepts in the teaching of Christ. Yet, it is a realized eschatology that Jesus preached. The eternal life and salvation which are the breaking in of the power of the kingdom into men's lives is already present and can be experienced by men through faith. The kingdom, salvation, and eternal life are virtually synonymous in the teachings of Jesus.

Part II discusses the ethics of the kingdom which Anderson divides into personal and social ethics. Personal ethics are taught by Christ in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. The social ethical issues which Anderson addresses from the teaching of Jesus are Church and State; Marriage and Divorce; Justice; Wealth; Social Reform; War; and Civil Disobedience.

Part III is entitled "The Consummation of the Kingdom" and treats the person of Christ, the cross, resurrection and ascension, and then the coming of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the church, and the second coming.

There is nothing striking about Anderson's views. He writes as an evangelical and for evangelicals. He upholds the integrity of Scripture and the deity and lordship of Christ.

Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.



Bewley

Anthony

Prof, hymn writer dies at 93

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Edwin McNeely, 93, professor of ministry of music at Southwestern Seminary from 1921 to 1961, died June 30 in Anderson, S.C. From retirement to 1983, he was a resident of Newton, Miss.

McNeely had written lyrics for numerous hymns, including "New Life for You" in the *Baptist Hymnal* (1975 Edition).

He enrolled at Southwestern in 1917 but left to serve in World War I. He returned to the seminary in 1921, earned the diploma of sacred music in 1922 and the bachelor of sacred music degree in 1932.

He was minister of music at the former Evans Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth for 25 years until the mid-1950s.

Survivors include his wife, Addie Wilson McNeely of Anderson, S.C.; daughter Marilyn, wife of James Dunn, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and stepson Robert Heritage, director of choral activities and instructor in music theory at Anderson College, Anderson, S.C.

Religious contention is the devil's harvest.—Charles Fontaine

No man's religion ever survives his morals.—Robert South

Eugene Roberts accepts assignment in Vienna

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Roberts have been invited by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to accept an assignment in Vienna, Austria, as mission volunteers. Roberts, now retired, was formerly director of missions for Lincoln-Copiah Associations.

The Robertses will leave for the assignment in the middle of August and will remain in Vienna throughout 1984. They are substituting for a missionary couple who will be taking a four-month furlough.

The Foreign Mission Board furnishes the missionary residence in which the Robertses will live, and also a car for church work.

Coxes return month early

Larry and Cheryl Cox, Mississippi missionaries to Upper Volta, returned home a month early for furlough. Their 11-year-old son Jason broke his leg and in a routine X-ray, the doctor discovered a hole in the bone at the break.

Doctors in Jackson told the Coxes that it appears to be a benign bone

Broadmoor celebrates 20th milestone of two

To have a staff member remain at one church for 20 years is often considered unusual. In July, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of two of its staff members. Claude Anthony, business administrator, and John Bewley, director of recreation; both came to Broadmoor in July of 1964.

On Sunday, June 17, the church honored these men and their families with a special day and a reception following the evening worship service.

In an interview with Anthony, he

recalled coming to the church when the budget was \$5,000 a week and the church was behind in its payment of bills. Total receipts in 1984 should be around \$2,500,000. During the time of his administration, buildings have been constructed to house the recreation area, the kitchen and fellowship hall, the kindergarten, children's wing, and music suite.

John Bewley came to Broadmoor as youth and activities director. When the activities building was constructed one year later and the program moved into a much more defined recreation program, he decided to accept the specific job of activities director. John is a skilled athlete in many areas, but can also be found fixing a bowling machine, working on the grounds on the ball field, getting information on the costs of activities buildings for a neighboring church, or witnessing to a young person whose only contact with the church might be playing on a ball team. His experiences at the church have also included sponsoring bicycle trips to Europe on several occasions and mission/work projects in other parts of the world. His "magic" has also made his name well-known throughout this part of the country as banquet entertainer and speaker.

Foy Rogers to Chickasaw

Foy Rogers will begin work as director of missions for the Chickasaw Baptist Association, Aug. 1.



Rogers

time basis.

Rogers, active in interim pastorates, has most recently been with the Rankin County Baptist Association, working with small churches.

For the past seven years the Chickasaw Association has had Hollis Bryant as foster missions director. Bryant is a consultant with the Cooperative Missions Department.

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Mississippi Baptist activities

July 18-21 National Acteens Conference; Fort Worth, TX; 7 p.m., 18th - 7 p.m., 21 (WMU)

Faces And Places

America's North Coast

The Goodtime II cast off. Wind ruffled the waters of Lake Erie. The sun was shining—true. But I pulled my jacket tighter. Cleveland, Ohio, the town once called “the mistake by the lake” has changed to “comeback city.” It spread its treasures for all to see, on “the longest lakefront of any metropolitan center in the U.S.”—the stadium of the Indians; tall buildings of marble, bronze, and terrazzo; its Emerald Necklace of parks.

One of the port city's key strengths is Lake Erie. Nearly dead not so long ago, that lake now produces more fish than all the other Great Lakes combined. So said a tour guide.

An elevator bridge ascended behind a freight train; our cruise ship, the Goodtime II, proceeded beneath it into the mouth of the Cuyahoga. Only a short distance down the river we passed the Flats, now an area of steel mills, warehouses, and fashionable restaurants and antique shops. “Here is the spot where General Moses Cleaveland climbed ashore in 1796.” The Connecticut Land Company had sent him out with a survey team to chart this place known as the Connecticut Western Reserve, part of a land grant made by King Charles II in 1662.

My Delta flight had landed at Hopkins Airport on June 20; I was en route to a National Federation of Press Women convention. From there, Rapid Transit offered to deliver me in 21 minutes for 99 cents to Terminal Tower, next door to my downtown hotel.

Stouffer's on the Square (503 rooms) is rated four-star (or is it four-diamond?) Before I could even check in, Ethel Hanft, gracious and vivacious author and columnist from Iowa, invited me to go with her to Captain Frank's, lobster place on the pier at East 9th St. She said she and the others would wait until I'd deposited my baggage in my room. The others were Grace Koss (Wisconsin); Lea Flanders (Colorado); and Annetta Duveen (Connecticut).

I tried to hurry. First, though, I had to figure out how to enter my room. The desk attendant had given me no key—only a card with a bunch of holes in one end. I didn't want to show my ignorance by asking. Must have something to do with security by computer? That card surely would not fit into the keyhole. A slot somewhere? Ummm. There above the handle. I stuck the card into it. No. I flipped it over, pushed again, and tried the thumb latch. That did it! Through the windows of my room on ninth floor I could look out into the 10-story atrium at the hotel's center.

I'd read in Reader's Digest that Cleveland went bankrupt in the late 70s, but had its books balanced again in 1980, the latter due largely to Mayor George V. Voinovich and his sponsorship of a new spirit of cooperation between government and business. The city claims 72 ethnic groups among its three million, and a per capita income 18% above the national average. In Stouffer's Gold Room, Mayor Voinovich welcomed around 300 press women to Cleveland. So did Richard Celeste (governor of Ohio and former director of the Peace Corps) and Ruth Wirtz of Solon

(convention director and editor of at least three Sun newspapers).

Next day (I read about it in *The Plain Dealer*) the mayor attended the topping out ceremony for Sohio, Standard Oil Company's 45-story headquarters building going up on the public square, across the street from the hotel, while we in the Gold Room listened to Singing Angels—100 peppy singing children and teenagers who go on concert tours as goodwill ambassadors for Cleveland and the U.S. To end their program, they branched out into the audience and began a sing-along. A young beauty with dark brown curly hair asked me to sing with her. I begged, “Choose someone else if you want results!”—but she kept holding my hand. Together we—and all the others—stood to sing “God Bless America.”

The city tour afforded a brief stop at St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Church, baroquely decorated cathedral built in 1911 with help of money from Czar Nicholas II. (For the opening luncheon at the convention, Marjorie Squires, West Shore Unitarian Church minister, and Robert Wendelken, St. Rita Catholic Church, had led the prayers. I have since discovered that the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has about 72 missionaries in Ohio.)

I had little time for shopping at Higbee's and May's, department stores near the hotel, but I did walk through the famous Arcade. That Victorian multi-tiered shopping arena, 112 shops under its skylights, was built in 1892 of glass, marble, and brass. (It's on the National Register of Historic Places.) I missed Playhouse Square altogether, where four majestic old theaters are being restored (two are complete) and where the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival takes place.

Next week I'll write something about the workshops I attended, and faces in Cleveland. My favorite in the entertainment package offered us was an evening at Blossom Music Center, in a wooded rural setting near Akron. We ate box suppers under tents. Dessert was blueberries and whipped cream on biscuits. (One morning we ate blueberries on toast. I wonder if blueberries are a favorite Ohio food??)

Blossom Center, summer home of the Cleveland Orchestra, was named for the Blossom family, patrons of the arts. That night the Pennsylvania Ballet presented an exquisite “Salute to Balanchine,” assisted by the orchestra. Under the open air pavilion, the acoustics were superb and every sounded note sounded, crystal clear. The colors of the costumes and the grace of the dancers delighted my senses. Behind me, on the grassy bank that forms a natural amphitheatre behind the pavilion, hundreds were picnicking. A bird sang in the pavilion rafters. Fireflies kept turning on their little flashlights.

It was hard to come back down to the reality of a traffic jam on the interstate past midnight, and bed at 1:30 a.m.

Usually I like the mountains best, but this year I'm glad I could visit the coast—America's North Coast, that is.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved until all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

Church music history

Editor:

The Church Music Department is writing a history of Baptist Church Music in Mississippi titled, *We Shall Come Rejoicing*. We are searching for a photo of Betty Ruth Riley (she may have a different last name if married), who worked in the Church Music Department as a summer worker in 1948. Anyone having a photo of Betty or if anyone knows of someone who might have a photo of her, please contact Emma Ainsworth, Church Music Department, MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. The photo will be returned.

Gwen Hitt, Chairman
History Committee

Witness in New York

Editor:

I would like to bring your readers up to date regarding an article you printed on March 29, regarding Metro Baptist Church in Manhattan attempting to purchase a church building by “creative financing,” which means help from all of us. Are Mississippians as amazed as I am that there has been no “church building” for Southern Baptist English-speaking Christians? They have been renting a room on the third floor of a building in Manhattan. The Home Mission Board came to the rescue with a grant of \$250,000 in order to close the transaction. The board stated there had never been nor would there ever be a situation again where they would do such a thing. God literally held the door open through the board so he could have a witness in New York City.

Unfortunately, neither article in the Baptist Record had an address for readers to send support. The 120-member congregation cannot carry this loan by themselves. The address is Metro Baptist Church, c/o W. Eugene Bolin, Pastor, 236 W. 72nd St., New York, N. Y. 10023. This church should be an object of deep concern, as they face a crisis monthly when the notes come due. Contact either of us for any additional information.

Kathleen Corley Mason
4213 East Ridge Dr.
Jackson, MS

While I am not sure that we had an address, it is a fact that we do not make direct appeals for money as a matter of policy. Your letter provides an address, however; and I am sure that readers will be glad to note it.—Editor.

Ordaining women

Editor:

The question of ordaining women should be examined closely considering I Tim. 5:22 which warns of the danger involved in hasty ordinations.

Should women be ordained? I do not need to be ordained by a church to know that I am already called and

ordained by God. He has clearly stated my role and responsibilities. And He, being God just as clearly states my limitations.

As a wife, I am to reverently submit to my husband's love, leadership, and care (Eph. 5:21-24, I Peter 3:1-6 and Col. 3:18). As a mother, I am responsible for the upbringing, especially spiritual of my four children (I Tim. 2:15, Eph 6:4* and Col. 3:21)—“in these verses parents is the proper translation). As a woman I am to dress myself respectably and with good works (I Tim 2:9-10) and teach younger women with pure actions and God's doctrine (Titus 2:3-5). But I am forbidden to lead and teach men (I Tim. 2:11-14 and I Cor. 14:34-35).

If a woman seeks the ordination of God, let her be a worker at home (Titus 2:5). But if she seeks to be ordained as a teacher and have authority over men in the church, let that church beware of sharing in the sins of others. For sin is missing God's mark; and God, not the church, set the qualifications for church leaders, the major qualification being a man (I Tim. 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9).

The real question therefore is not should women be ordained but rather should the churches obey God!

Mrs. Brad Talley, Columbus

A premillennial view

Editor:

I read with interest the editorials and articles in the Baptist Record dealing with the “Harmony or Disharmony” of the SBC. Your editorial of May 10, 1984, prompts me to respond to this subject.

Several months back there were a good many articles from conservatives setting forth a plea for “parity.” An article in the Nov. 25, 1982, issue had a plea for parity or representation of inerrantists on faculties, administrations, and boards of SBC agencies and in the literature and books published by the Sunday School Board.

Let me be specific as regards the literature and book phase of this controversy. It bothers me very much that all of the Sunday School literature and the study course books recommended for our studies are amillennial. Never is the premillennial view set forth. As an example, I have just completed a study of *The Baptist Faith and Message* by Herschel H. Hobbs. My findings are that not one premillennial statement is made in his book. However, there are a good many amillennial statements in the book. Some of these would, if accepted as fact, rule out the consideration of the premillennial view on those points at least.

Now, really, is this fair? Why should the large premillennial element in our convention continue to accept this type of Sunday School literature and study course books without a protest? It certainly cannot be shown that premillennialism is less scriptural than amillennialism.

My plea is that “parity” be given by the Sunday School Board in its literature and books as regards the premillennial viewpoint of the scriptures. Is that too much for us to ask?

Roy A. Schmidt
Sontag

This letter provides a good occa-

sion to speak to the concept that those in denominational positions are unresponsive. Lloyd Elder himself, president of the Sunday School Board, returned my call on this question, though I had not asked for him as I called. In February, during the meeting of the elected Sunday School Board, there was a motion by Ned Mathews, pastor of Parkwood Church, Gastonia, N.C., requesting a discussion in August by the board of views of eschatology. This followed a statement by James L. Holly, a layman from Beaumont, Texas, that those with a premillennial view have not had “a very good shake.” This was printed on Page 7 of the Feb. 23 issue of the BAPTIST RECORD, and Dr. Elder assured me that the subject will be on the agenda at the August board meeting.—Editor.

Gifts not valid criterion

Editor:

I have been reading with interest your editorials and other articles appearing in other Baptist papers and journals concerning the relationship of being elected to positions in our conventions and the amount of money our churches give to Missions. I appreciate your position that we had better be careful at this point. Let me give a side to this discussion that has not been written about, at least I have not seen it.

If we use this reasoning, then I and other pastors like myself would certainly have a legitimate complaint! I have served Southern Baptist churches for 34 years. In every one of them I challenged them to start at 10 percent (most of them were giving either nothing or much less than 10 percent), and to increase their giving over the years. I saw those churches increase their mission giving, and percentages to as high as 30 percent. The church I am now pastoring is giving 26 percent through the Cooperative Program and 6 percent to Associational Missions, plus having goals of over \$9,000 for the special mission offerings. Both churches that went to 30 percent reached that figure before all this controversy arose in 1979.

Now here is the point I am making: if election to office is to be based on how much my Church gives, then I should have been appointed to some board or trusteeship or other position in our state convention or Southern Baptist Convention.

This is certainly not a “fox and sour grapes” attitude. I can assure you that whatever influence I have had with Churches I have pastored in getting Cooperative Program gifts raised has been out of a deep dedication to missions and a genuine love and appreciation for my denomination. It has never been my thought that by doing this that I would be rewarded with some special office.

The whole argument to me seems ridiculous and divisive! Have we become more interested in money than in taking a stand on what we believe; more interested in money than in unity and a spirit of fellowship between churches of all sizes?

G. Arnett McCoy, pastor
Union Baptist Church
Picayune

Yalobusha honors state WMU president

The Yalobusha Association, meeting at Elam Church, Coffeeville, in April, adopted a resolution of appreciation for Wilda Fancher, state WMU president and wife of James Fancher, pastor of First Church, Coffeeville.

B. C. Sellers moderator, said, "The association desires to recognize her achievement." In part, the resolution follows.

"The Mississippi Baptist WMU in its wisdom did elect Mrs. James (Wilda) Fancher as president, and Mrs. Fancher has proven her love for and leadership ability in WMU through her local church, association, district, and state work.

"This fine pastor and wife team have endeared themselves to the people of Yalobusha Baptist Association and their peers in every area of our work, and our association has been singularly honored by having one of our own elected to such high office.

"We express to the Fanchers our appreciation for their labors in our midst, and assure Mrs. Fancher of our sense of pride in the fact that she has been so deservedly honored, and we thank God for her leadership in the WMU."

Two get degrees in Tupelo

Among the May 1984 graduates at New Orleans Seminary were two students who have completed all academic requirements for the associate of divinity degree at the North Mississippi Center, located in Tupelo. The two students—Dwain Ard and Carl Nickles—each earned the degree in the area of pastoral ministry.

Students are permitted to complete all academic work for this degree by attending weekly classes, held at Calvary Church, Tupelo. Ken Anderson, pastor of First Church, Slatton, serves as the local director of the New Orleans Seminary program.

Wheeler Grove celebrates 75th

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, celebrated its 75th anniversary May 6 by paying off a church debt of about \$10,000 and holding a special Diamond Jubilee celebration. The all-day celebration included preaching services in the morning, a spread luncheon in the gym and several hours of singing by the Wheeler Grove Singers.

The Singers are Dexter Benjamin, Norman Benjamin, George Burns, Bill Gant, Ricky Wilbanks, Jim Wilkinson, and Dwight Wilson. They were accompanied by Mrs. Brenda Bragg, pianist, and Mrs. Nelda Dalton, organist.

Wheeler Grove Church was originally named Mayes Creek Baptist Church. Kara Blackard is pastor.



Students in training program

NASHVILLE—Scott Martin, left, William Carey College, Hattiesburg and Cathy McCommon, right, Northeast Mississippi Junior College, Booneville; were two of 11 Mississippians who recently participated in a summer training program for Baptist Student Union presidents. Also attending the conferences were Kevin Hunsucker, Mississippi Delta Jr. College, Moorhead; Charles Edwards, East Central Junior College, Decatur; Barbie Windsor, Delta State University, Cleveland; Teri Patterson, Pearl River Junior College, Poplarville; Janet Trotter, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus; James Anderson Northwest Mississippi Junior College, Senatobia; Tim Hatcher, Gulf Coast Junior College, Perkinston; Daniel Hathorne, University of Mississippi, University; and Delise Teague, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain. The conference, sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board, introduced students to available resources in addition to providing sessions on communication, leadership, discipleship, evangelism and missions.

Engell retires at Center Ridge

An appreciation day with gifts was provided Arthur T. Engell who retired from the ministry July 1, 1984. Kermit Sharp, missions director for Neshoba and Kemper counties, presided. Engell has been pastor of Center Ridge Church in Kemper County for eleven years.

The church, with only 40 resident members, had set state and conventionwide records in per capita giving to the Cooperative Program and home missions. During that time, giving to all missions had increased from 9% to 58%.

Engell has been preaching for 58 years, 54 as a licensed preacher, and 51 as an ordained preacher. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. He served Mis-

issippi churches at Marion, Schlatter, Money, Goodman, Vaiden, and Moorhead. He was pastor at Spice Valley Baptist Church in Mitchell, Ind., while attending the seminary.

A total of 24 years he spent serving churches and 23 years in active military service with the Army Air Corps, in World War II and with the Air Force through the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a chaplain. He retired with the rank of colonel in 1971.

During his years of service he received Army and Air Force Commendation and Meritorious Service Awards as well as the Legion of Merit Award for service in Vietnam.

He and Eloise, his wife of 48 years, have one daughter, Gloria Faye, of Aurora, Colo.

Woolmarket sets summer drive

Woolmarket Church, Gulf Coast Association, has set a goal to increase Sunday School attendance by 35 percent, to have 400 in Sunday School by September. An increase of 17 percent was made during June.

"We know that it is unusual to have a campaign during the summer, but there are many unusual things happening at Woolmarket Church," said John Sherman, chairman of deacons. Donnie Guy has been pastor there for 16 months and during that time the

church has had 320 additions, with 169 by baptism.

Woolmarket constructed a new building because of the increase in attendance and has already run out of space. The church has called its first full-time minister of music and youth, Steve White.

In the first year of Guy's leadership the church went from an average of 155 in Sunday School to 265. Church Training tripled, and now has 10 adult classes.

These guys go back a long way

FORT WORTH, Texas—Lonnie Bryant and Ron Mumbower have traveled many miles together on the road to doctorates in education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bryant and Mumbower, who were among 16 doctoral graduates this spring, were born in 1954, on April 13 and 14, respectively, in the same hospital in Albuquerque, N. M. Their mothers met for the first time by

sharing the same room.

Bryant and Mumbower became acquainted when, at the age of 16, they moved their memberships to the Sandia Baptist Church, Albuquerque.

They soon became close friends and were roommates during their four years at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Both then worked for two years in Shawnee, Bryant as a social worker and Mumbower as a teacher, before

WMU elects 1st Nigerian head

IBADAN, Nigeria—The Woman's Missionary Union in Nigeria elected its first Nigerian executive secretary recently at the organization's 65th annual session. Aduke Akinola will begin her responsibilities in September.

She succeeds Mary Ellen Yancey, a Southern Baptist missionary who will retire in a few months. Mrs. Akinola was the national WMU president from 1971-77 and for the past five years was national director of the Woman's Missionary Society (comparable to Baptist Women in the States).

Maryland Baptists employ Jacksonian

The Baptist Convention of Maryland has employed Charles Clark as director of Evangelism/Brotherhood. Clark is pastor of Conowingo Church in Maryland. The date of employment is August 1.

Clark, a native of Jackson, Miss., has been at the Conowingo church for three years. He had served previously in Kentucky, Florida, and Alabama.

His wife is the daughter of Robert Nations of Jackson. Both she and her husband are graduates of Southern Seminary. He is also a graduate of Mobile College in Alabama and has a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

Liberty moves to new plant

Liberty Church, Rankin County, held the first worship service in its new location, on the corner of Highway 25 and Luckney Road, on July 1. A dedication service for the new building will be held July 15.

The dedication day schedule will include Bible study at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; a slide presentation at 1 p.m.; dedication service at 2 p.m. and evening service at 7 featuring "The Believers." Wayne Crenshaw is pastor; Joe Metts is music director; Calvin Couch is youth director.

Liberty Church was organized in 1840. A new sanctuary was finished in 1958. Population shifts and development of industry in the rural area around the church brought about a decision to move. In 1979, the land on Luckney Road was presented as a gift to the church from Elizabeth Wilson Ratcliff McCarty.

Homecomings

West Jackson Church, Jackson: July 31; homecoming; Robert Wall, Clinton, Mississippi College staff, guest speaker; Bob Pollard, leading the music; covered dish dinner in the activities building after morning worship service; no evening service; Malcolm Massey, pastor.

Silver City (Humphreys): homecoming; July 15; fiftieth year celebration; C. C. Caraway, former pastor of the church, to preach in the 10:30 morning service; dinner on the grounds; fellowship and singing in the afternoon; George Reichenbach, pastor.

Siloam Church, Meadville: homecoming; July 15; morning worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; gospel singing at 1:30 p.m., featuring Elmo Mercer, singer and song writer from Nashville, Tenn. (two of his best known songs are "Each Step I Take" and "The Way That He Loves"); Jack Evans, pastor; newly renovated auditorium to be dedicated during the morning service.

Prospect Church near Richton: homecoming; July 15; Riley Hinton, bringing the message at 11 a.m.; lunch served at the church; afternoon service. (See "Revival Dates.")

Pray for MKs

July 17 — R. Elizabeth Moseley, Brazil, Mississippi College
July 20 — Matthew V. Lee, France, Mississippi State University

Mondays are "Church Bulletin Days" at Rapids on the Reservoir!

We welcome you to Jackson's Wildest WaterFun Park with \$1 off our regular \$7.95 admission price when you present your church bulletin at the gate. Good every Monday through Labor Day. Let your friends know!

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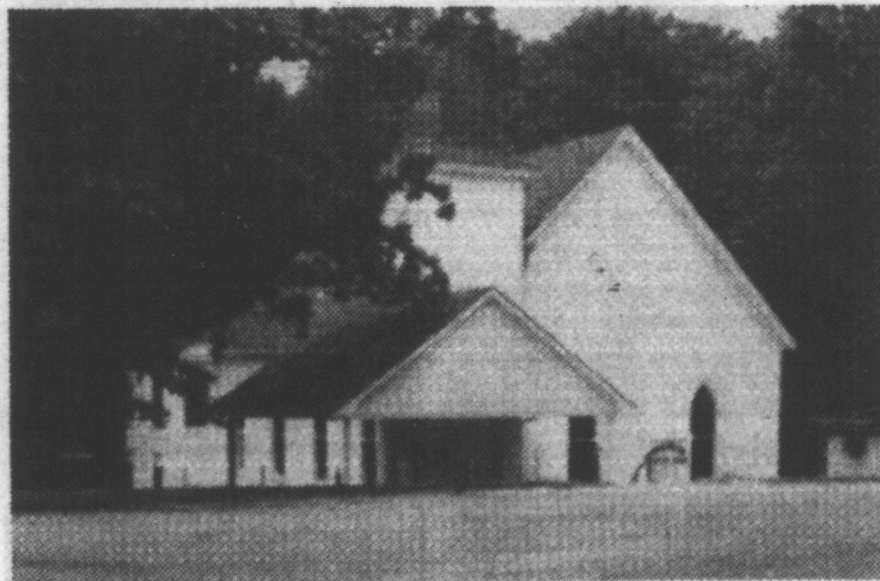
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11
Thursday, July 12, 1984



FIRST CHURCH, NEWTON, recognized its GAs and Acteens in a special service on May 6. Frank Harmon is the pastor. QUEENS WITH CROWNS top photo, are: left to right (front row) Amy Armstrong, Gina Godwin, Juli Gunter; (second row) Angelique McClendon, Laura Taylor and Mindy Mitchell. QUEENS WITH SCEPTER ARE: left to right (third row) Nicole Gibbs, Bodie Copeland, Dana Lee; (fourth row) Greta Brashier, Shelly Crawford, Amy Matthews and Daine Risher. GA's, bottom photo, receiving recognition were: left to right (first row) Layne Maily, JoAnna Gunter, Betsy Harmon, Kimberly Pace; (second row) Stacy Gibbs, Amber Junkin, Jenny Rayburn, Sundi Kirkland, LeAnne Wagner, Brooke Douglas, LeAnne Franklin, Sonya Kaye Read; (third row) Dana Freeman, Elyse Rayburn, Christi Hand, Dru Newman, Jennifer Smith, and Amber Matthews.



GA's of First Church, Brookhaven, were recognized recently for their work in Missions Adventures. Badges were awarded to 45 girls. The theme of the service was "My Promise to God." Missions Adventure coordinates are Mrs. Randy Seals and Mrs. Bill Sones. GA Director is Mrs. Eddie Smith. Pastor is Robert E. Self.



ROBINSON CHURCH in Peoria community, Mississippi Association, has completed and dedicated a new fellowship hall, named in honor of the pastor, T. H. Maxwell. The church will celebrate its centennial with a weekend revival, July 13-15, night services at 7:30 Sunday morning's service, July 15, will begin at 11 and will be followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon song service.



ROCKY CREEK CHURCH, Lucedale, recognized its Acteens and GAs in a service on May 20. The GA director is Robin Smith; the Acteens director is Cheryl Williamson. Acteens honored were 1 to 7: First row: Amy Read, Vickie Mason, Kaye Dungan, Tonya Stevens, Becky Hinton, Susanne Rouse. Second row — Queen Regents: Rochelle Dixon, Denise Dungan; Queens-with Scepters: Telethia Beasley, Kelly Gibson, Tara Havard, Nancy McCaa, and Penny Waldrip.



GAs recognized at Rocky Creek, Lucedale, May 20 were first row, left to right: Amberly West, Allison Williamson, Sabrina Smity, Brandy Barrow. Second row: Melissa Croom, Stacy Fore, Amanda Denmark, Joyce Hilbun. Third row: Amanda Croom, DaLinda Beasley, Tressa Hilbun, Nikki Havard, Leslie Dungan, Tina Williamson, Kathy Spidahl, Dabra Eubanks, Heather Denmark. Fourth row: Vicki Gibson, Kelly Gibson, Krystal McLeod, Kim Ezell, Katy Havard, Dana Lynn, Not pictured: Leslie Bond, Krystal Robbins, Becky McLeod, Sheila Flurry, Kathy McLeod, Pam Easterling. Roy T. Myers is the pastor.



ELLISTOWN CHURCH, BLUE SPRINGS, held a recognition service for its Acteens recently, on the theme, "God's Beautiful Bouquet." The Acteens were escorted by RAs. Girls honored were Lori Briggs, Queen; Dana Roberts, Queen; Holly Moore, Queen; Julie Roberts, Queen Regent. Other Acteens working toward becoming Queen are Laina Erman, Jennifer Roberts, Jenifer Priest, and Loretta Richey. Escorts were Tracy Loden, Greg Humphreys, Scotty Wigington, Kenneth Briggs, Steve Coker, Ken Rogers, Sam Cox, and Jason Roberts.

Grace Church, Vicksburg, recently held a Vacation Bible School with an average daily attendance of 100. The children participated in Bible games, crafts, and Bible study. There was one profession of faith and many rededications. H. Bryan Abel is pastor of Grace.

Youths of Ecru Church, Pontotoc County, recently went on mission to Pascagoula, where they worked with two churches, taking a survey and holding Vacation Bible School, and also worked in the Seamen's Center. The VBS had an average attendance of 57. While on the Coast, the young people visited the World's Fair in New Orleans and attended a worship service at First Church, Kenner, La. Charles Stubblefield, Ecru pastor, and Mrs. Stubblefield accompanied the youths.

Johnson Creek Church, Greene County, celebrated its 100th anniversary on May 27, with James Harrison, a former pastor, preaching. Revival services followed, with John Merck as evangelist. The church has a new pastorium. Wayne Haselmaier, pastor, will retire as a jet engine specialist on Aug. 3, after 36 years in that work.

Fairview Church, Itawamba, held Vacation Bible School June 18-22 with an average attendance of 119. There were 155 present for the fireworks show presented on the closing night. This is an attendance high for the church in VBS. Director was Larry Dulaney. Pastor is Gene O'Brien.

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, Larry Fields, pastor, is providing leadership during July for pediatric chapel services at the North Mississippi Medical Center.

Causeyville Church will be host church for a singing to be held on July 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Faithmen from Louisville will be guest musicians. Surrounding churches are being invited to attend.

Yale Street Church, Cleveland, held services July 8 to 11 observing its 30th anniversary. The Sunday morning speaker was Joe Oliver, a retired minister from Amory. The evening speakers were, Sunday, Adrian Horne, Tupelo; Monday, Paul Wilson, pastor, Central Church, Brookhaven; Tuesday, Danny Smith, Delta State University ministerial student; Wednesday, Bill Jenkins, Yale Street Church, Cleveland.

The music directors included Benny Still, Woodville, for both Sunday services; Don Smith, minister of music at Yale Street, Monday; Harold Smith, Ruleville, Wednesday; and others on Tuesday.

A covered dish luncheon was served at the church on Sunday.

Corinth Church, Jasper County, reports that its Vacation Bible School, held June 4-8, had an average attendance of 108, and a total enrollment of 120. Edd Holloman, pastor, directed the school.

Liberty, Rankin County, held Vacation Bible School on June 4-8 with 80 pupils and 26 workers enrolled. Average attendance was 90. There were 4 professions of faith. Director was Mrs. Barbara Blanton. Wayne Crenshaw is pastor.

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CAMBRIDGE Baptist Church, Gautier, needs 20 twelve foot PEWS. If you know of church selling or donating pews, call Richard White, (601) 497-3419; 497-1329.

Devotional

An honorable vessel

By Jack Price, pastor, Holly Church, Corinth

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Dr. J. Vernon McGee uses this vivid illustration in his commentary on II Timothy, "Imagine you are walking across a desert, and you come to an oasis. You are parched and almost dying of thirst. You find two cups there.

One is made of gold and highly ornamented, but it is dirty. The other is an old crock cup. It will barely hold water because it is cracked, but it is clean. Which one would you use? Now give God credit for having as much intelligence as you have." God will only use us in his service if we are clean and honourable. He will never use us if we are stained with unconfessed sin.

King David a person who God blessed and used greatly in the building of the Kingdom rose to heights of power and fell because of sin. He became soiled because of sin. He took another man's wife for his own. God took his hand

Price

away from David because he was no longer a vessel through which he could work.

Many people, including pastors, deacons, and Sunday School teachers, go to church regularly to worship and be equipped for service. However, their lives are void of the power of God and they bear little fruit because they are stained and soiled instruments before the Lord God. God has removed his power from them. They are going through the rituals of service but are useless before God because of their sin. They wonder what is wrong with everyone else when the real problem is they are dirty and unfit vessels.

King David knew it was sin which broke his fellowship with God, hindered his service, and let him empty and powerless. He repented of the sin and asked God's forgiveness.

Your pride, attitude, family relations, bitterness toward someone, or any other sin great or small can keep you from being fit for the Master's use. Confess that sin. Ask God to remove it from you, that you can become an instrument through which God can work. He can use you only if you are clean!

Missionary News

Doyle and Martha Robertson, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Mr. Homer Robertson, Box 538, Melbourne, Ark. 72556). He was born in Manila, Ark. She was born in Hattiesburg.

Charles and Indy Whitten, missionaries to Equatorial Guinea, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 608, Malabo, Eq. Guinea via Madrid). He is a native of Weir, Miss., and she is the former Nella Dean Mitchell of Louisville, Miss.

Van and Sarah Williams, missionaries to India, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3364 Faxon Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38122). He was born in Columbus, Miss. The former Sarah McGlamery, she was born in Houston, Texas, and lived in Barranquilla, Colombia and Ripley, Miss.

David and Linda Finnell, missionaries to Singapore, are in the States on furlough (address: 3331 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, Miss. 39216). Born in Lexington, Ky., he also lived in Dallas, Texas, and Jackson and Tupelo, Miss., while growing up. She is the former Linda Lipscomb of Jackson.

Durwood L. (Dee) and Ann Broughton, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have arrived in France for language study (address: 1, rue Lord Byron, 37000 Tours, France). He is a native of Rocky Mount, N.C. She was born in Biloxi and considers Vancleave her hometown.

Donald and Patricia Pirkle, Southern Baptist representatives to Israel, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 1, Box 102, Sycamore, GA 31790). He is a native of Sycamore. The former Patricia Ard, she was born in Pontotoc, Miss.

Faye Pearson, missionary to Taiwan, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1113 Meadow Dr., Lake Charles, La. 70605). She is a native of Laurel, Miss.

Edward and Nita Taylor, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 3, Box 719, Milan, Tenn. 38358). He was born in Greenwood, Miss. She was born in Paducah, Ky.

Thomas and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 1, Gopalganj, Faridpur District, Bangladesh). He is a native of Monticello, Miss. She is from McWilliams, Ala.

Sam and Bonnie Turner, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o E. T. Sherman, Rt. 1, Box 32, Albion, Pa. 16401). He is a native of Van Buren, Ark. They served in Mississippi, on the Coast.

Paynes marks 100th

Paynes Church, Charleston, celebrated its 100th anniversary with homecoming day held July 8. Mike Everson, pastor, brought the morning message, after Sunday School. A covered dish meal was served in the fellowship hall at noon.

Mt. Olive Church (Carroll): July 22-27; services at 7:30 p.m.; Tommy and Diane Winders of Tupelo, evangelists (they have been in evangelism for 14 years and have held revivals throughout the United States); David Satterwhite, pastor.

Providence Church, Jayess, (Lawrence): homecoming July 15; beginning of summer revival; David Perry, pastor, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, evangelist; Victor Walsh, member, First Church, McComb, music director; Mrs. Sally Presnell, Jayess Church, pianist. Sunday service, 11 a.m.; dinner at the church; afternoon service; no evening service; services Monday through Friday, 7:30 p.m.; John L. Carlisle, pastor.

Liberty Church (Mississippi Association): in progress, July 8-13; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Guy Henderson, director, Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven, music director; Charles Holifield, pastor.

Prospect Church near Richton: July 16-20; services at 7:30 p.m.; Riley Hinton, preaching; Mark Cooper, leading the music; George P. Jones, Jr., pastor.

Causeyville, near Meridian: July 15-20; services at 7:30 p.m.; Gray Maloye Allison, pastor at Shannon, preaching; Don Womble, pastor, directing the music. (Allison is the son of B. Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.)

Mission Hill Church, Wesson: July 15-20; revival and homecoming; Sunday at 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., with homecoming dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; James Berch, visiting evangelist; Van Windom, pastor.

Emmanuel Church, Union: July 15-19; at 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; dinner in fellowship hall following morning service on Sunday; Randall Creel, pastor of Sulphur Springs Church, guest speaker; Jamie Meaders, minister of music; Steve Purvis, pastor.



Note burning at Fairfield

W. C. Odom, assistant treasurer for Fairfield Church, Moselle, third from left, sets fire to the note the church has used in agreement to buy 17 acres of adjacent land for \$17,000. The note-burning service was held to signify the payment of the note, and

Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee (Covington): July 15-20; Sunday 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds; afternoon service; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Ben Carlisle, pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville, evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City, music evangelist; Bob Rogers, pastor.

Spring Cottage Church, Columbia (Marion): July 15-20; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with lunch served in fellowship hall at noon; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m.; John F. Wilson, former pastor at Spring Cottage, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, music leader; Marvin Graham, pastor.

Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto: July 15-20; Clarence Young, a former pastor, now pastor of Maplewood Church, Sulphur, La., preaching; Thomas Moak, music director of Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln County, leading the music; morning and afternoon services at 11 and 1:30; lunch at the church on Sunday; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; James Jeffreys, pastor.

Bluff Springs (Kemper): July 15-18; James Snowden, pastor, Bay Springs, preaching; Clarence Qualls, pastor; 7:30 nightly and 11 a.m. Sun.

Salem Church, Collins: July 15-20; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Bob Perry, executive director, Gulf Coast Association, evangelist; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, music evangelist; James D. McLeMore, pastor; J. Barry Worrell, minister of music.

Bethel Church (Copiah): July 15-20; Sunday at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; during week at 7:30 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, pastor of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Dewayne Tullos, pastor

Holly Bluff (Yazoo): July 15-20; Odus Jackson, pastor, Zion Hill, Liberty, evangelist; Ronnie McCall, Seminary, music evangelist; Sunday services 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; afternoon service at 1:30; weekday services 7:30 p.m.; John Adams, pastor.

Mt. Olivet at Lillian: July 15; morning service at 11; dinner served picnic style at the church; fellowship in afternoon; revival July 15-18; Travis Polk, preaching; night services at 7:30.

Shiloh (Montgomery): July 15-20; Frank Roberson, pastor, preaching Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bill McCreary, preaching Mon. night; H. B. Vinson, Tues. night; Frank Bishop, Wed. night; Richard Marmon, Thur. night; Sonny Redwine, Fri. night.

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Grady B. Wilson has served as an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association since 1947. An ordained Southern Baptist preacher, he continues to minister with the Team and holds some of his own revivals. He resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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West Ellisville pastor leads doctrinal seminar in India

By Molly Fairchild

NOTE: Molly and Al Fairchild of Moselle, Miss., have been serving as volunteer missionaries in Chandigarh, India, for several months, at their own expense. They were unable to obtain permanent visas, so returned to the U.S. June 17. They plan to be here until November or December of this year, and then to return.

New experiences were in store for many in Chandigarh, India, including Americans, Indians, Africans, and Canadians at the Baptist House this past week. It was a joyful group of pastors that boarded the bus this morning going back to their respective churches and villages, for they had just attended an eight-day seminar on Baptist doctrine. The seminar was led by Dwight L. Smith, pastor of West Ellisville Baptist Church, Ellisville, Miss.

Due to the exasperating temperature of 114+ degree F, classes were held in the cool of the day. Everyone was up by 4:30 getting their baths. Between 5:30 and 6 we were served a hearty breakfast of Indian tea and pakoraz (batter fried vegetables and bread.) Classes began at 7 o'clock, lasting throughout the morning. Additional teaching and counselling

took place in our apartment, as young pastors and students hung on to our teacher. They were so hungry and thirsty for the word of God. Brother Smith did not seem to mind. He was very gracious in sharing his time and God's Word.

Everyone searched for a cool place to eat the noon meal, consisting of rice and curry. In America we only "talk" about dinner on the ground. In India we practice it. The food is prepared on the ground, cooked on the ground, and eaten on the ground. And though the Baptist House is equipped with a spacious kitchen complete with counter space and double sinks. The Indians prefer doing it their way. So they even wash the dishes on the ground, at a low faucet.

After the meal everyone takes rest in the coolest spot they can find. In the cool of the evening classes are resumed. Finally after a whole day we are served an evening meal and enjoy fellowship. On two consecutive evenings, Al (Fairchild) showed the group—"The Ten Commandments." Though they could not speak English, they understood and enjoyed the video presentation that was shown on the roof.

After the fellowship, everyone

bedded down for the night. Everyone, including Brother Smith, slept on the roof, praying for cool breezes.

Sleeping under the stars was quite a new experience for me. As I lay on my cot looking into the heavens, I was reminded of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for they too at one time gazed up into the heavens, looking at the same stars. God told Abraham one day his seed would be like the stars, so many that they could not be numbered.

Even as God kept his covenant with Abraham, so he keeps his New Testament covenant with us. And Brother Smith taught of his covenant and church ordinances this week.

A baptistry was built this week on the premises on a very appropriate place, next to the four-tiered fountain, reminding me of the hymn, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains." Though all our preachers pitched in and helped lay bricks for the baptistry, it was not completed in time for baptism services on Sunday. However, we had a beautiful communion service followed by inspirational ordination service on Sunday evening.

The world does not require so much to be informed as reminded.—Hannah More

I would give nothing for that man's religion whose dog and cat were not better for it.—Rowland Hill

DIRECTOR OF CHILDHOOD MINISTRY NEEDED

Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi, desires a qualified Director of Childhood Ministry. The incumbent must be a Christian, a committed Southern Baptist, and have a love and concern for children (birth through sixth grade). It is desirable for the incumbent to be a college graduate with seminary training or sufficient experience working with preschoolers and children. This is a part-time position working approximately 25 hours per week. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Interested candidates should immediately send a resume to or request an application form from:

**Minister of Education
Harrisburg Baptist Church
1800 West Main Street Tupelo, MS 38801
(601) 842-6917**

Staff Changes

South Louisville Church, Louisville, has called



Rutledge

James Rutledge as pastor. He was formerly pastor of Fredonia Church, New Albany. Rutledge is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and attended New Orleans Seminary.

Arkadelphia Church, Bailey (Lauderdale), has called Chuck Davis as minister of youth. Davis is a student at Mississippi College, Clarke campus. He formerly served Green's Creek Church, Petal. John Vaughn is pastor of Arkadelphia Church.

Marion Dees has resigned the pastorate of Bethesda Church, Oktibeha County, and has accepted the pastorate of Bethel Church, Winston County.

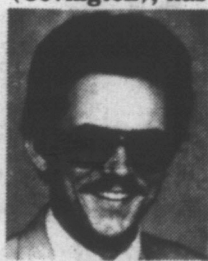
Steve Evans, new pastor at Macedonia Church, Calhoun County, and his wife and daughter moved into the parsonage June 14. A supper and pounding were given in their honor on June 21.

Ed Sudduth is new minister of music and education at Central Church, Brookhaven. He has been for the past five years associate pastor and minister of music at Ashland Church, Ashland.

Brookway Church, Lincoln Association, has called W. E. Alexander as pastor.

Calvary Church (Silver Creek) has called Randall Goins as minister of music and youth. He moved from First Church, Beaumont. He is from Hattiesburg and is a student at William Carey College.

Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee (Covington), has called Bob Rogers as pastor. He comes from the pastorate of Union Church, Roxie (Franklin).



Rogers

He was graduated from Mississippi College in 1980 and New Orleans Seminary in 1983.

Mount Olive Church in the Lauderdale Association has called A. C. Johnson, past president of Clarke College, as interim pastor.

Michael David Atherton has joined the staff of the Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, as minister of youth.



Atherton

A native of Owensboro, Ky., he is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Mid-America Seminary.

Ecru Church, Pontotoc County, has called Thomas Lamb, recent graduate of Southern Seminary, as minister of youth and music.

Mike Ramage has resigned Fair River Church, Lincoln County, to become pastor of West St. Charles Church, New Orleans, La.

Macedonia Church, Lee County, has called Floyd Tharp as pastor. He goes from a pastorate in Alabama.

First Church, Saitillo, has called Wayne Carter as minister of music and education.

Dan Wright is the new pastor of Macedonia Church, Winston County. He moved from Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw County.

Jack Garnett recently began serving as pastor of Mars Hill Church, Winston County, having moved from Louisiana.

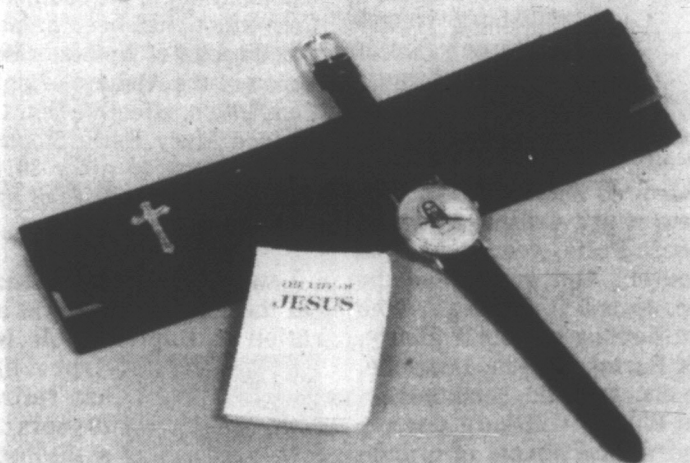
Marion (Buba) Dees has accepted the pastorate of Bethel Church, Winston County. He was formerly pastor of Bethesda Church, Oktibeha County.

Mount Carmel Church, Smith County, has called E. C. Tucker as pastor. He and his family have moved on the field. He began work there June 24.

Agricola Church, George County, has called Jeff Ingram as youth director.

Shady Grove Church, Greene County, has called Joe DeLoach as music and youth director. Charles Harvey is pastor.

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Names in the News

Mark Worsham was ordained to the ministry at Spring Hill Church, Calhoun County, on June 24. Homer Worsham, his father, brought the charge to the candidate. Marvin Bibb, Calhoun County director of missions, brought the charge to the church. Charles Nestor led in the dedicatory prayer.

At the Honors Day program held at Mississippi College during chapel hour on May 7, Kathy Kay was the recipient of the Juliette Burnette Memorial Scholarship, an award given annually to a worthy student who is majoring in church music. Kathy has served as minister of music and youth of Deer Creek Church full time during the last two summers and on weekends during school time. She is the daughter of Anthony Kay, pastor of First Church, Calhoun City. Lee Hudson is pastor of Deer Creek.

Gillsburg Church on June 3 ordained Greg Potts to the gospel ministry. Potts is a native of Kentwood, La., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Potts. He has served the Gillsburg Church for three years as minister of music and youth.

Tom Killgore, pastor of Gillsburg, delivered the invocation. Kenneth Stewart Jr., Gillsburg deacon, and Robert Potts, deacon at East Fork Church, Kentwood, read the scripture. Joseph L. Small gave the charge to the church. John W. Henry, pastor of Barton Church, Lucedale, gave the charge to the candidate.

Dennis Wilson, Gillsburg deacon, presented the certificate of ordination, and Pastor Killgore presented a new ordination Bible from the church.

SARASOTA, Fla. — William S. Hardin, 81, died July 4 in Hinds General Hospital in Jackson. Services were held July 6 at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home with burial in Clinton Cemetery. A native of Toombs, Miss., he had lived in Sarasota, Fla., for 15 years. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He served pastorates in Adair, Ky., and Drew and Titusville, Fla. He founded the Gulf Gate Baptist Church at Sarasota after 50 years of ministry. He retired in 1972. He is survived by his wife, Vergie Turcotte Hardin and sister, Mrs. Leon (Nell) Smith of Toombs.

J. B. Betts, a Mississippi native who for 18 years has been a church music evangelist, in recent months has had to give up most of his singing because of vocal problems. He states that he desires to keep serving the Lord through his vocation and that he would be available to some church in a staff position of outreach/evangelism.



Betts is a graduate of Mississippi College and has a master of church music degree from New Orleans Seminary. Before entering full-time music evangelism, he served as minister of music and education at Second Church, Indianola; Tunica; Morgantown, Natchez; and at Daphne and First Church, Brewton, Ala. Betts and his wife are members of Leewood Church, Memphis. His address is 3462 Macon Road, Memphis, Tenn. 38122 (phone 901-458-5164).

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Beverly Sutton, interpretation section director for Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, effective Oct. 1. She will replace Mary Essie Stephens, who retires June 30 after 30 years as executive director of Alabama WMU.

Lewis A. Curtis, professor of biblical theology and pastoral administration at Baptist Bible Institute,



Graceville, Fla., has retired after 20 years of service at the Institute. He holds the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College, and the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He spent 25 years in different pastorates in Mississippi. His last pastorate before joining the Institute faculty in 1964 was First Church, Calhoun City.

Greg Patterson, a student at Hinds Junior College and member of First Church, Jackson, is working this summer at the Alabama Baptist Assembly Camp in Citronelle, Ala. Half the summer he is counseling with a retarded children's camp program, the other half with Royal Ambassadors.

Fund-raising strictures ruled free speech violation

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U. S. Supreme Court ruled June 26 a Maryland law forbidding charitable organization from paying expenses of more than 25 percent in connection with fund-raising activities violates the free speech guarantee in the U. S. Constitution.

Struck down in the 5-4 ruling was a 1976 law designed to prevent fraudulent solicitation following a fund-raising scandal involving the Pallottine Fathers, a Baltimore-based Roman Catholic religious order. A series of newspaper reports that year revealed that the order, headed by Father Guido Carcich, engaged in a massive direct mail solicitation campaign for missions and then used much of the money raised in questionable business and real estate deals.

But the high court, building on a 1980 decision forbidding municipalities from imposing percentage limitations on non-profit fund-raising activities, held the Maryland statute to be overbroad and to inhibit constitutionally protected free speech activities.

Bessons lead singles meet

"Picking Up The Pieces/Successful Single Living" was the theme for the singles conference held at Columbus, First Church, July 6, 7, and 8.



Conference leaders were Clyde Besson and his wife, Cathy. Besson, a Baptist minister, author, and pastoral counselor for more than 20 years, is director of Christian Growth Ministries near Houston, Texas.

Topics included: Making the Most of a Difficult Situation; Developing a Healthy Self-Love; How to Trust After Being Burned; and Solo Parenting.

June gifts were less than in '83

The Mississippi Baptist-Convention Board reported June gifts of \$1,221,660 for the Cooperative Program from churches in the state, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the MBCB.

The total is \$286,526 less than that given in June of 1983.

The total given to the Southern Baptist unified giving program for Mississippi for the first six months of 1984 is \$7,997,551. The pro rata budget for six months is \$8,242,500. This makes the projected budget \$244,949 behind estimates. The total 1984 budget is \$16,485,000.

Giving so far in 1984 is 5.4 percent higher than in 1983. The total 1984 budget is 10.3 percent higher than that of 1983.

Christ acts when man is without hope.—(Paul Tournier)

Great thoughts reduced to practice become great acts.—Hazlitt

Snowstorm covers west Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Southern Baptists are sending food, blankets and medicine to victims of a snowstorm which has covered western Argentina with six feet to 30 feet of snow.

Ten deaths have been confirmed and several thousand people have been evacuated from homes where they lacked food, fuel and other supplies, said Mell Plunk, chairman of the Argentine Baptist Mission. A great number of livestock has also been lost. Winter just began in the Southern Hemisphere.

Temple, Forest marks 25th year

Temple Church, Forest, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on July 22, with homecoming. A covered dish lunch will be served at the church. Former pastors will be special guests.

A revival will follow the homecoming, July 23-27, at 7:30 nightly. W. J. Fox, pastor of Cash Church, will be the evangelist. Leroy Stewart will direct the music, accompanied by Mrs. Betty Fox, pianist. Jerry Lundy is pastor.

Treasurer retires at Pace

Pace Church at Pace has adopted a resolution of appreciation in honor of O. Malcolm Souter, who, after 25 years as church treasurer, is retiring.

Souter was ordained in 1968 as a deacon and has served on many church committees. "Pace Baptist Church, her people and her work, have always been first priority to him," the resolution stated.

Souter has served as mayor of Pace and as president of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau. He and his first wife, Mary Emma Clower, had two daughters, Patricia and Emily. After Mary Emma's death, Souter married Mrs. Robert (Jessie) Wiltshire, mother of Bob and Jo Anne, in 1953.

The resolution stated, in part, "O. Malcolm Souter has been a member of Pace Baptist Church for 69 years. During that time he has exemplified the 'fruits of the spirit' in every manner. He is gentle, kind, loving, longsuffering, and faithful. It is said that 'Christian character is not mere moral or legal correctness, but the possession and manifestation of these graces.' O. Malcolm Souter is a Christian gentleman who truly loves the Lord and his fellow man."

Midwestern gives degrees

Kansas City, Mo. — Two Mississippians were among the 96 persons receiving degrees during Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's commencement exercises May 26.

Earning the master of divinity degree were William Dennis Harris, of Lauderdale; and Kenneth Ray Shaw, of Louisville. Harris is a graduate of William Carey College. Shaw was graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi.

You have a friend in New Orleans

If you're planning a trip to the World's Fair or if you will be in New Orleans on business, tuck this message into your wallet. It will remind you that there are like-minded people willing to come to your aid.

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Traveling is more fun when there's a friend waiting for you. We hope you enjoy your trip.

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Chesterfield breaks ground

Chesterfield Church, Tupelo, broke ground June 17 for a new two-story education building. It will contain five classrooms and provide for an enlarged fellowship hall.

The members of the church are financing the building themselves and will build on a pay-as-they-go

basis. On June 3, Sacrifice Sunday, an offering of \$6,000 was received.

There have been donations of material such as wiring, lighting fixtures, and other supplies.

Chesterfield is located five miles west of Tupelo. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory May 26 — June 25, 1984

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Mrs. Vesta Ables
Mrs. H. G. Horne
Mrs. Barbara Sutton
Mrs. Esma S. Adams
Jack & Esma Hawks
Mrs. S. C. Adams
W. M. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Smith
Mrs. Joe R. Alliston, Sr.
E. N. Ross, Jr.
Mrs. Lelia Anglin
Dorcas Sunday School, Petal
Mrs. Mollye Armstrong
Ms. Margie Langston
Mrs. Pearl Austin
Yale Street Baptist Church
Eunice Sunday School, Cleveland

Clayton E. Bain
Mrs. N. L. Douglass
Mrs. Ann Barfoot
First Baptist Church, Bude
Joe P. Barnett
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Lee
J. P. Bates, Jr.
George D. Allard, MD
Winfred Earl Beck, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins
Earl T. Bell
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Knight
Ward Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Edwards
J. M. Benton
Billye & Jack Everett
Mrs. Ola Ross
Gwen & Heber Slay
Mrs. Samuel B. Bigham
Mr. & Mrs. N. G. Augustus, Jr.
Mrs. W. M. Black
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Power

Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) Blakely
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton, Jr.
Mrs. W. G. Branscome
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.
Mrs. Bessie Blaylock
Sr. Adult Sunday School, Meadville
Siloam Baptist Church
Mrs. Fairy Bolding
Mrs. Bessie T. Parish
Miss Ruby Booth
Employees of Tax Assessors/Collectors Office
Mrs. Ford Saulters
Horace Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Koury
Mr. & Mrs. David Hosemann
Thomas G. Brame
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Owens
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Steele
Mrs. Ralph Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. W. Kelly Pyron
John R. Brill
Mrs. W. G. Mize, Sr. & Family
Mrs. Hilda M. Calhoun
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Brock (Emma)
Rev. & Mrs. J. P. Brock, Sr.
Mrs. Augusta Brown
Mr. & Mrs. David Anderson
Max Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Gullledge
Mrs. Mabel Gillespie Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins

"Bud" Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Shepherd, Jr.
Mrs. Fred Bufkin
Christine Cockerham
Ken Bufkin
Mr. & Mrs. Pat H. Shivers
Mrs. Ellen Carter
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Hollimon
Mrs. Ethel Clark
Mrs. Ella B. Pridgen
Ethyl Clark
Virginia Potts
Billy Cloy
First Baptist Church, Bude
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wallace
F. M. Cockerell
Mrs. C. G. Daughdrill

Mrs. Calvin Collier
Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Doolittle
O. Ray Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Taylor
Mrs. Mary Cowart
First Baptist Church, Bude
Mrs. Eva Leggett Crisco
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Knight
Samuel Fleming Crowley
Mrs. Mary Lee Lowry
Mrs. Marguerite Culpepper
Mrs. A. L. Neal
John Cummings
Myra Sadler
Hilyard H. Cutts
Harold & June Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Power

Ida Reeves Daniels
Ruth, Marvin, & Mary Alice Melton
Frank Daughdrill
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Daughdrill
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Lang, Jr.
Mrs. Ollie Daughdrill
J. W. & Mary Godbold
Eddie I. Davis
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- *No previous experience required—we will train
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Vacation Dates:

July 20 - August 5

All Village young people/children are invited into private homes throughout Mississippi for this two-week vacation. If you would be willing to open your home to one of our young people, please contact:

Claire Nowlin
Box 11308
Jackson, MS 39213

Dear Friends:

We are so very pleased at this time to offer to young folk in our care the opportunity of spending time in a private home situation. I would want you to be mindful of the fact that it is this home/family environment that serves as a beautiful model for our young people; I would also want you to know that it is not the activities or the surroundings that have the greatest impact on their lives. In essence—it is the attitude of love and acceptance that means so very much. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Claire Nowlin

Mother's Day

Evidently many local churches have forgotten our boys and girls and the substantial needs of their Village home this Mother's Day. Receipts from the 1984 Mother's Day offering to this date are far below minimum needs and distressingly modest. If your church has not responded as yet won't you encourage its participation—even now.

This is our only appeal to churches for cash support each year and thus, the most important offering of the year to us.

By Charles E. Myers, Jackson
Ephesians 1:3-10; 18-20

Does your church mean as much to you now as it has in any period of your life? If it does not, what caused it to mean more to you at some other period? Do you believe your church has as much influence in your community as it has ever had? If not, what caused the loss of influence? Do you grow tired of people using statistics to measure your church's worth, as if bigness meant goodness or greatness? Do you sometimes excuse your church's failure by saying it is small in numbers and as a result weak in power? Or do you ever think much about your church, just taking for granted that it has always been there and surely always will be?

Paul in the Ephesian letter thanked God for the blessings God had provided in his church experience. First, he chose us in him before the world was and planned for us to be righteous like God is in order that we could have perfect fellowship with him.

The use of the word chose is not to emphasize some were chosen and some were not, nor to say God's choice eliminates any responsibility we have for choosing. Rather it emphasizes that our relationship with God has its beginning in God. He wanted us long before we wanted him. The church is not made up of a group of people who got together and decided to have a religious club. Rather it is made up of people whom God chose to redeem and brought together for a purpose. The fact it had

its beginning in God makes the church tremendously important.

The fact also that his choosing us necessitated our being redeemed is also important. None of us deserves to be chosen of God. It was the result of God's grace. And then having been chosen we had to be cleaned up before we could come to the place for which we had been chosen. And the cleansing was not a bath with soap and water. It was a spiritual cleansing from sin and was done through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, God's son. Those of us in the church have been chosen of God and redeemed through Christ.

God did not choose us and redeem us just to be good to us. God had a purpose in choosing. Many people want to be chosen to be spoiled and pampered rather than to be used. A lot of trouble in a lot of churches has resulted from self-centered people who were looking for blessings and had no concern for being used.

God chose us and redeemed us in order for us to praise God for the glory of his grace. In other words, God holds us up for the world to see what God's grace can mean to people. He is saying to the world, "look what I can do for you." Of course, what the world sees must be so attractive that those not in Christ will want to come to him in order for God to do for them what he has done for us in the church. For us to lose sight of God's purpose for the church

is to sin against God's goodness and our fellow man's need. It is also to destroy the very work which God is engaged in, the work of redeeming people. We are not the center of the church, God is. The purpose of the church is not to baby us, it is to use us to show what God can do for people. And in doing this it brings honor to God, not some person or group of persons.

Paul speaks of the eyes of the heart being enlightened that we may see certain things which give evidence of God's power. Following God and serving him is an intelligent thing to do. You would expect Paul to look at things logically and intelligently. After all he had one of the keenest minds in the New Testament world. God revealed himself in various ways to Paul but never in a way that excluded sound reasoning. We are never called to follow God blindly. He is a great personality who deals with us as persons. He calls us to reason, to think, to converse, and to follow. Many people think a religious experience is all emotional, a thing of feeling, and that faith is blind. They never see God as a person but rather as a force. That is why their religious experience leaves them self centered and weak.

The God we serve is a person who made us in his image. Communication with him involves the total person. The more complete that communication the richer the experience and the more perfect the life.

An era of evil

By Bobby Lee, Tupelo
I Kings 16:21-25, 29-33; 22:37-39

The Reign of Omri (16:21-25). At the time of Omri's being made king by the military, the people were divided in their loyalties between him and Tibni, the son of Ginath. However, Omri established himself as king of all Israel after four years of struggle. The newly established house of Omri, often called "the house of Ahab" after Omri's most famous son, lasted for 48 years—through the reigns of Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram. After reigning for six of his 12 years at Tirzah, Omri bought a hill from Shemer for the small sum of two talents of silver, fortified it, and made it his capital city. The hill quarded the fertile valley in the midst of which it stood. The valley itself was surrounded by mountains, Ahab named the hill "Samaria," meaning "place of watch," after Shemer, since his name expressed the ideas of guarding and keeping. Samaria was the capital of Northern Israel from that time until its destruction by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Omri also followed the evil practices of calf worship instituted by Jeroboam. However, he was worse than any king before him in the pursuit of wickedness.

The Beginning of the Reign of Ahab (29-33). Ahab's reign was the most significant in the history of Northern Israel from a religious point of view. The main reason is the crisis that occurred in his reign between the true worshipers of the Lord and those who debased the worship of the Lord or would substitute some other god for the Lord God of Israel. The prophets of Israel, led by Elijah and Elisha, championed the worship of the Lord and him only in the purity of the laws of Moses. The struggle resulted in the destruction of the house of Omri and the purging of Baalism from Israel. However, the sin of Jeroboam, which would lead ultimately to the destruction of the nation, continued to flourish.

After a brief statement dating the reign of Ahab, this passage concentrates on the sin of Ahab and not the fulfillment of Joshua's prophecy concerning the curse of rebuilding Jericho (v. 34). Like his father, Omri, Ahab was undaunted by God's judgment upon other wicked kings and their houses. He plunged deeper into wickedness than any who reigned before him. He not only perpetuated the evil practices of calf worship but also pressed Baal worship upon Israel.

Ahab took for his queen Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of Sidon. Ethbaal was also a priest of Baal, who was worshiped among the Sidonians under the name Baal-Melkart. Jezebel herself was an ardent devotee of Baal and zealously sought to make Baalism the religion of Israel.

Ahab continued to name allegiance the Lord God of Israel as is reflected by his giving his children Yahweh names: Ahaz-iah, Jeh-oram, and Athal-iah. However, Ahab himself became a worshiper of Baal. He built in Samaria a house devoted to the worship of Baal, erected in it an altar to Baal, built an image to Asherah the female consort of Baal, and erected a pillar to Baal. Also, Ahab gave

Jezebel free rein to press her desire to make the people of Israel worshipers of Baal. To that end, she sought to wipe out the prophets of the Lord God of Israel and appointed and maintained a large number of priests and priestesses of Baal and Asherah to practice and teach that abominable worship.

The wicked influence of Jezebel and Ahab also devastated Judah. Their daughter, Athaliah, who married Jehoram, King of Judah, extended the abominable influence of Baalism in Judah and all but destroyed the royal lineage of David. Ahab's reign is summed up in saying that he did more "to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings who were before him."

The Death of Ahab (22:37-39). God had decreed that Ahab should be brought to his just fate by death at Ramoth-gilead. The method agreed on to bring about Ahab's death was to cause Ahab and his prophets to believe "a lying spirit."

Ahab's delusion of victory is seen in his belief that he would return from battle in peace. Ahab took precautions in the ensuing battle by disguising himself. However, God struck Ahab down with an arrow shot at random by a bowman. The arrow struck Ahab in the stomach between the scale armor that covered the lower portion of his body and the breastplate, and he died in the evening. The blood of his wounds, which flowed into the bottom of the chariot, was washed at the pool of Samaria. There it was licked up by dogs as predicted by Elijah. The reference to the harlots, who apparently were washing themselves at the same time the chariot was washed, was not part of Elijah's prophecy. Their washing themselves with the water into which his blood ran shows that his desecrated blood was mingled in death with the harlotry he promoted by his wickedness. Archaeologists have identified in Samaria Ahab's "ivory house." The palace itself was of stone with paneling and furniture inlaid with ivory.

Bible Book Living in a pagan world

By Vernon L. Sikes, Yazoo City
I Peter 2:11-3:12

As a man relates to his neighbor, so he relates to his God. Is there a parallel between man-to-God and man-to-man relationships? Peter wrote to the early Christians regarding the man-to-man responsibilities as they should relate to the condition of the man to God.

I. Civic Responsibilities (2:11-17)

Christians are not at home in this world. We are first of all heavenly citizens. Peter was essentially voicing what Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh" (2 Cor. 10:3). We have a higher citizenship. As citizens of God's kingdom, Peter instructed those early Christians to abstain from "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (v. 11).

During Peter's day, Christians were accused of numerous crimes, and they were held with the same disdain and caution that characterizes today's approach to cults. They were accused of incest and cannibalism because of their agape love for one another and their sharing of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. The Christians called their meeting the Agape, the Love Feast, and the heathens perverted the name to make it mean that the feasts were sensual orgies where untold sexual looseness occurred.

The Christians' would be a testimony of their faithfulness to God and would, in turn, cause the non-Christians to reflect on their good deeds. The result of that reflection

would be the conversion of the non-Christian Gentiles and a rethinking of what Christianity stood for.

Since a properly constituted government guarantees for all that which is good and protects all from that which is bad, Peter urged the Christians to be prayerfully in support of the government (v. 13). That Peter would suggest such during the extreme pressure that was being put on Christians by the government was probably very difficult for them to understand; but if the alternative was anarchy, even Nero merited some degree of honor. Peter was not proposing that the Christians become blind to governmental injustices. Government is subject to challenge when it isn't conducted for the good of all its citizens.

II. Domestic Responsibilities (2:18-3:7)

In vv. 18-25, Peter wrote of the Christian's attitude toward their masters. Slavery is a thing of the past, but in the 20th century, we might well align this relationship to that of our modern-day employee-employer relationships. The Christians during Peter's time were slaves for the most part and, no doubt, received mistreatment at the hands of their masters. The Christians were to be respectfully submissive even to the overbearing masters (v. 18), and to those Christians who suffered abuse that was unwarranted. Christ held them in special favor. One can imagine the reaction that those early Christians must have had to his prop-

osal; but as if expecting negative feedback, Peter offered Christ as an example of what their attitudes toward their superiors should be. Jesus was to be their model and their inspiration because, though he did no wrong, he patiently endured mistreatment (vv. 21-23).

Before their lives could be arranged properly in their man-to-man relationships, Peter called attention to the importance of the wife-husband relationships. Though Peter spent more time addressing the wives than he did the husbands (3:1-7), his point was that both partners must play a role that would honor their spouses. "Likewise" in v. 1 relates the wife's role to the submissive servant's, and in v. 7, "Likewise" relates the husband to an equally loving and honoring role. Wives and husbands "likewise" were to concern themselves primarily with their spiritual adornment as opposed to their physical adornment (vv. 3-4).

III. Social Responsibilities (3:8-12)

"Finally," Peter said. To put it all in a nutshell, "... have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart..." (v. 8). Those are the only options available for the Christian.

Christians are mandated in the scriptures to mirror the example that Christ gave. Peter challenged them, and now he challenges us to "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God..." (2:17).

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